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UM Student Wins Critical Language Scholarship for Study in Russia

April 28, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Kitiri McDunn recently won a competitive U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for an all-expenses-paid intensive summer language program in Russia this summer.

McDunn is a sophomore Russian major and linguistics minor. She is a 2015 graduate of **Helena** High School and the daughter of John and Angela McDunn of Helena.

"I am excited to have accepted a Critical Language Scholarship for the summer of 2017," McDunn said. "I will be studying Russian at the



KORA Russian Language Center in Vladimir, Russia, and living with a host family for eight weeks.”

CLS is funded by the U.S. Department of State with the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying critical languages. The program also includes cultural events for full immersion. For more information on the CLS program, visit <http://clscholarship.org/>.

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SpectrUM's 'Water' Exhibit to visit Victor May 1-4

April 28, 2017

MISSOULA – “Water,” the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s newest traveling exhibition, will visit **Victor** Monday through Thursday, May 1-4.

Created with researchers from the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, “Water” features interactive exhibits and hands-on activities exploring ecosystems science. Highlights of the exhibition include a virtual watershed sandbox, a groundwater model and spectrUM’s popular erosion table. The exhibition is funded by the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, the Montana National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program, and the Clark Fork Coalition. This tour stop is powered by the Jane S. Heman Foundation.

During school hours throughout the week, students from Victor will participate in guided field trips to the “Water” exhibition. Families and friends are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, at Victor School.

The spectrUM Discovery Area’s mobile science program travels statewide with hands-on science exhibits and activities guided by museum educators. According to spectrUM Director Holly Truitt, the goal of spectrUM’s mobile

outreach is “to inspire Montana’s next generation about STEM and higher education and to help power a vibrant, homegrown workforce in our state.”

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, UM’s spectrUM Discovery Area serves more than 55,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and mobile programs. Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 31 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. In total, spectrUM’s mobile science program has served over 52,000 people, of whom 30 percent are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

Additional spectrUM sponsors include the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NASA, the Martin Family Foundation, the Montana Space Grant Consortium, the Simons Foundation, GSK-Science in the Summer and the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation.

For more information call Jessie Herbert-Meny, spectrUM’s head of educational programs, at 406-243-4828 or visit <http://spectrum.umt.edu/>.

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Contact: Jessie Herbert-Meny, head of educational programs, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4872, jessie.herbert@umontana.edu.



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UM Journalism Students Highlight Montana Businesses on MontanaPBS

April 27, 2017

MISSOULA – A new episode of the student-produced television program “Business: Made in Montana” features six more companies from across the state. The program premieres at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, on MontanaPBS.

Flyvines is a unique Missoula business that uses stay-at-home moms to transform blemished fishing line into take-home treasures. Alley Wood Rescue of Missoula reclaims wood and turns it into functional gifts and beautiful household décor. Whiskey Leatherworks from Missoula started when a pair of friends began crafting leather into special belts, wallets and more.

A Missoula family business, Montana Wreaths, keeps the holiday season fresh and green. Another Missoula company, Exhale Bag Co., features a revolutionary CO2 bag to help indoor gardening. Viewers also will visit Butte’s Headframe Spirits, where the distillery connects the community’s past and the present.

Students at the UM School of Journalism and Department of Radio-Television produced the program during fall semester 2016. Junior journalism student Maria Anderson from Kent, Washington, hosts the program. During the past 24 years, “Business: Made in Montana” has featured more than 200 different businesses across the state.

The program will repeat at 2:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4; at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 7; at 5:30 a.m. Monday, May 8; and at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 10.

"Business: Made in Montana" is made possible with support from the Greater Montana Foundation. Founded by pioneer broadcaster Ed Craney in 1958, the GMF provides grants to improve the quality of communications of important issues through electronic media. More information is available online at <http://www.greatermontana.org>.

MontanaPBS comprises KUFM-TV in Missoula and KUSM-TV in Bozeman and is a service of UM and Montana State University. More information is online at <http://montanapbs.org>.

###

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Gladen Named Montana Ambassador Educator of the Year

April 27, 2017

MISSOULA – Paul Gladen, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at the University of Montana, recently was named Montana Ambassador Educator of the Year by Gov. Steve Bullock.

On April 24, Gov. Bullock announced the recipients of the 2017 Montana Ambassador Awards, which honor individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to economic development in Montana.

“His dedication to educating the next generation of entrepreneurs pervades everything he does,” Bullock said. “Paul’s passion and drive have had considerable impact on hundreds of new and aspiring business owners in Montana.”

In addition to directing UM's Blackstone LaunchPad, Gladen is co-founder of the Montana Code School and an adjunct faculty member at UM's School of Business Administration.

"I'm greatly honored to receive this award and for its recognition of UM's role in spurring entrepreneurship in Montana," Gladen said. "Over the past three years, we've seen students from all disciplines empowered by entrepreneurial thinking and excited by the realization that they don't need to leave the state to find meaningful work, but instead have the opportunity to create their own career path right here in Montana."

"It's an exciting time to be in Montana," Bullock said. "Our economy is growing, wages are up, unemployment is down and businesses are creating good-paying jobs all across the state. I'm pleased to recognize this group of hard-working folks and am thankful for their dedication, service and efforts to ensure that Montana is one of the best places in the country to live, work, play, start a business and raise a family."

The Montana Ambassadors is a volunteer, nonprofit organization of leaders in business, education, and local and state government with a common dedication to living and doing business in Montana and to furthering the best interests of the state.

For more information visit <http://montanaambassadors.com/>.

###

Contact: Paul Gladen, director, Blackstone LaunchPad at UM, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.





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US House Race Documentary Airs Tuesday Night on MontanaPBS

April 26, 2017

MISSOULA – The race for Montana’s vacant seat in the U.S. House of Representatives will be short and fierce as Flathead musician Rob Quist and Bozeman businessman Greg Gianforte have less than three months to get to know voters. And voters have many questions. Where do Democrat Rob Quist and Republican Greg Gianforte stand on the issues that are important to Montanans?

The MontanaPBS documentary “Vacancy in the House” examines these issues. The cameras go from the historic nominating conventions where party insiders chose their candidates to the streets of Montana where voters express their deepest concerns. The documentary explores the candidates’ early lives and influences, revealing two very different men who want to be Montana’s sole voice in the U.S. House.

Produced by MontanaPBS’ Anna Rau, “Vacancy in the House” delves much deeper in an election where the attack ads started immediately, and there is precious little time for Montanans to make up their minds.

The program will premiere at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 2, on MontanaPBS. Encore presentations are scheduled throughout May, leading up to Election Day on May 25.

MontanaPBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University. For more information visit <http://www.montanapbs.org/>.

###

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UM Students to Host Volunteer Restoration Day in Anaconda

April 26, 2017

MISSOULA – Students in the Ecosystem Science and Restoration program at the University of Montana invite volunteers to help build erosion-prevention structures on roadside slopes of the Anaconda smelting hills. The event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

Volunteers should meet at Albertsons in Anaconda and caravan to the project site alongside Highway 569.

This project will give volunteers an opportunity to learn about restoration efforts, damage by smelting and how erosion impacts plant growth. UM students will lead volunteers in building check-dam structures to prevent future erosion. Students also will educate volunteers about the history of the Anaconda smelter, ecological impacts in the area and restoration techniques.

“This event will be a great chance for community members to get involved in an active restoration project and see the impacts of human activity on this landscape,” said Jeff Cahill, one of the students organizing the project.

The Anaconda copper smelter emitted toxic fumes for a century, severely degrading the surrounding land. Heavy

metal deposits killed off existing plants, and heavy logging of the surrounding hills' timber for the smelter also caused the soil to lose stability.

Volunteers should bring water, sunscreen and work clothes, including work gloves and boots. Warm clothing layers are advised. A limited amount of gloves will be provided. Volunteers can RSVP to arrange carpools from the UM campus or meet at 9:30 a.m. in Anaconda at Albertsons. Volunteers should bring snacks to eat throughout the day, but pizza will be provided afterward at Galacano's pizza.

Volunteers should RSVP to Jeff Cahill by calling 406-546-9535 or emailing jeffrey.cahill@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Jeff Cahill, UM Ecological Restoration Capstone student, 406-546-9535, jeffrey.cahill@umontana.edu; Ben Colman, UM ESR capstone professor, 406-243-6315, ben.colman@umontana.edu.



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Two UM Anthropology Students Earn AAUW Honors

April 25, 2017

MISSOULA – Cheyenne Laue, a University of Montana doctoral student in computational anthropology, recently was awarded the American Association of University Women’s American Fellowship for the 2017-18 academic year.

The fellowship, which comes with a \$20,000 award, supports women scholars who are completing dissertations or preparing research for publication. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence, quality and originality of project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions or fields of research.

Laue is among only eight Montana students to earn the AAUW Fellowship in the past decade. She studies humans as a technological species, as well as the

effects of cultural practices and patterns on the creation and adoption of new artifacts. She uses computer simulation to model the extent to which technologies impact human societies, intervening in and altering both cultural dynamics and the natural environments that human social groups inhabit.

Laue earned a master's degree in anthropology in 2013 and received both the P.E.O. and Bertha Morton fellowships in 2016-17. She also is the founder of the nonprofit Girls Get Coding!



“One of the major barriers to increasing young women's interest in computer science careers may be girls’ alienation from computer programming during elementary school,” Laue said. “In order to address this problem in Missoula, I founded a nonprofit organization – Girls Get Coding! – to provide elementary school girls with one-on-one computer programming lessons from an experienced female mentor.”

Her nonprofit program is designed to alleviate the anxiety girls often experience programming in large, mixed-gender groups where topics may be tailored to the interests and skills of boys.

“Girls are able to choose specific projects and develop sound technical skills in a supportive environment that emphasizes courage, resiliency and self-confidence,” Laue said.

A second UM anthropology graduate student, Madhu Jagdeeshan is the first alternate for the AAUW International Fellowship for the 2017-18 academic year.

The international fellowship is for women pursuing graduate study in the U.S. who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Jagdeeshan, who is from Mumbai, India, holds a master's degree in interdisciplinary gender studies from Cambridge University and received a Tolle Bekken award from UM in



2016-17. She will spend the next six months in northern India conducting a pilot study and engaging in archival research.

The American Fellowships program began in 1888 during a time when women were discouraged from pursuing an education. Now one of the largest sources of funding for graduate education for women, AAUW has provided more than \$100 million to upward of 12,000 fellows and grantees.

One of the world's largest sources of funding for women in postgraduate study, AAUW will provide more than \$3.7 million in funding for fellowships and grants to 250 outstanding women and nonprofit organizations during the 2017-18 academic year.

For more information visit <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>.

Contact: G.G. Weix, professor, UM Department of Anthropology, 406-243-2337, gg.weix@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Students Continue Research with National Science Foundation Grants

April 24, 2017

MISSOULA – Two biology students and a geography student from the University of Montana have won National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships for their research.

Brianna Rick, from Burnsville, Minnesota, is a first-year graduate student in geography working on her master's degree as part of the Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring project with geography Professor Anna Klene. Rick will use the award toward earning her doctorate after finishing the program in spring 2018 and furthering research on vegetation/permafrost interactions in northern Alaska.

Emily Kopania, from El Dorado Hills, California, will use the award to fund her education as a doctoral student in the Organismal Biology, Ecology and Evolution program.

She works in UM's Good Lab, studying empirical genetics and genome evolution. Her interests center on understanding how new species are formed through evolution, and in particular how the evolution of male reproduction results in sterility for species of mice, how it influences fertility and how new species evolve from it.

Hila Tzipora Chase, from New York City and Israel, is also a first-year doctorate student in OBEE and works in the Tobalske flight lab in UM's College of Humanities and Sciences. She is interested in studying trabecular bones and how the anatomy of diverse birds, such as ducks and chickens, relates to their ecology. She then uses the information to interpret fossil bones. Chase worked for a year at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, researching human bones.

"We are excited for these outstanding UM students to have received such national distinction," said Charles Janson, associate dean and professor in the Division of Biological Sciences. "At a practical level, the support from NSF allows these exceptional young students to really focus on developing their research. Their ideas and energy promote the quality of academic programs for all our students."

NSF Graduate Research Fellowships are based on an individual's potential to contribute to STEM fields within the United States. The annual stipend for 2017-18 is \$34,000. Awardees receive three years of support. The NSF awards around 2,000 individuals annually at institutions across the United States.

"This is not only a prestigious fellowship, but also an excellent opportunity for our students to have stable support as they move through their graduate programs," said David Shively, Department of Geography chair. "We are so pleased that Bri, Emily and Hila have received such recognition and support."

Founded in 1952, the NSF's GRFP is the country's oldest fellowship program to support graduate students in STEM fields. Past fellows include numerous Nobel Prize winners, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Google's founder and the co-author of "Freakonomics."

For more information on the GRFP, visit <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>.

###

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UM Researcher: Heavy Precipitation Speeds Carbon Exchange in Tropics

April 24, 2017

MISSOULA – New research by the University of Montana and its partner institutions gives insight into how forests globally will respond to long-term climate change.

Cory Cleveland, a UM professor of terrestrial ecosystem ecology, said that previous research in the wet tropics – where much of global forest productivity occurs – indicates that the increased rainfall that may occur with climate change would cause declines in plant growth.



However, their new work suggests that climate-change driven increases in rainfall in warm, wet forests are likely to cause increased plant growth. Plant-growth declines are still expected in cooler forests with increased precipitation.

The research was published April 17 in Ecology Letters. The article, "Temperature and rainfall interact to control carbon cycling in tropical forests," is online at <http://bit.ly/2pmv2Hm>.

"Our work is based on real measurements of trees, not from computer models, and therefore may offer the most realistic picture of how much forests grow now, and how they may respond to changing temperature and climate," Cleveland said. "The biggest takeaway is that understanding variations in both rainfall and temperature is important for predicting how climate, as well as climate change, affect tree growth."

He said the research has important implications for climate change. It shows changes in rainfall and temperature in the future likely will affect both plant growth, which removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and organic matter decomposition, which pumps carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

"If increases in productivity in the tropics outpace increases in decomposition, then greater plant growth in the future will continue to provide an important climate benefit by slowing the rate of global climate change," Cleveland said. "But much more work is needed to resolve the effects of other factors, like soil fertility, on ecosystem carbon exchange and its overall effects on atmospheric CO₂ concentrations."

He said the research reinforces the importance of conserving tropical rainforests, where more than 1/3 of global plant production occurs.

Cleveland chairs UM's Department of Ecosystem & Conservation Sciences, which is part of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation. Solomon Dobrowski, a UM associate professor of forest landscape ecology, also contributed to the research. The lead author was Philip Taylor at the University of Colorado, with other authors from Northern Arizona University, the University of Colorado and the University of Nevada-Reno.

For more about UM's forestry college, visit <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/>.

###

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Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour to Stop at UM

April 24, 2017

MISSOULA – The Banff Mountain Film Festival 2017 World Tour will stop at the University of Montana University Center Theater at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 29.

The tour showcases some world's best award-winning mountain films and is put on by the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, located in the Canadian Rocky Mountains in Banff, Alberta.

Every year, the Banff World Tour team licenses around 30 films featuring a range of styles and themes, including climbing, skiing, kayaking, biking, adventure, culture and the environment. Six to 10 films are chosen for each location based off local interests.

Tickets cost \$18 and are available for purchase at UM's Outdoor Program and The Trail Head, located in downtown Missoula.

Sponsors for the Banff World Tour include National Geographic, The North Face, Clif, Deuter, World Expeditions, Kicking Horse Coffee, Bergans of Norway, Treksta, Lake Louise Ski Resort, Mammut, Petzl, Banff and Lake Louise

Tourism, and Mountain House.

The tour stop is sponsored by UM Campus Recreation and The Trail Head. For more information call UM Campus Recreation at 406-243-5172.

###

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UM Named Among Top Online Colleges for Students With Disabilities

April 21, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana has landed at No. 8 on a national list naming the top online schools for students with disabilities. UM also ranked No. 11 for being an affordable online college for people with disabilities.

The rankings were done by SR Education Group, an education research publisher. The lists are online at <http://bit.ly/2pjTrO6>. UM was the only Montana university to make either list.

“We are proud to be recognized by these rankings,” said Amy Capolupo, director of UM’s Disability Services for Students. “We strive to exceed compliance standards whenever possible, and providing access to education is something we take very seriously. Our faculty and staff members not only understand their obligations in terms of access, but seek to go beyond the basics to make campus a welcoming and hospitable environment for all students.”

SR Education Group evaluated the services of 1,265 colleges and universities to find those that represent the most disability-friendly online schools for provided the highest level of support, the widest breadth of accommodations and the most comprehensive resources for students with disabilities.

UM was lauded for its 15 online offerings, which includes an associate degree, a bachelor's degree, six master's degrees and seven certificates.

The statement accompanying the No. 8 ranking said, "(UM's) Disability Services for Students provides a web-based platform so that online students can easily access important documents and information. Faculty members are provided with resources to help them create online classes and materials that are accessible to online students with disabilities. These benefits make it possible for students to participate in online courses.

"The University delivers its online classes through the learning management system Moodle and the communication system Blackboard Collaborate Ultra," the article continues. "Both systems have features that make them accessible to students with various disabilities. The University also takes part in the Montana Accessibility Interest Group, a group which meets in an online web conference once a month to discuss issues related to accessibility for (UM) students with disabilities."

The write-up accompanying the No. 11 ranking for affordability said, "UM online students can earn degrees such as an AAS in Energy Technology or a BA in Media Arts. Graduate level students can earn their master's degrees in several fields that include public administration, public health or music education. Disability Services for Students works with faculty and staff in departments throughout the University to facilitate equal access to education for students with disabilities. Online students who register with DSS have easy access to the center's online services and staff through the 'accommodate' database on the (UM) website."

For more information about disability services at UM, visit <http://www.umt.edu/dss/>.

###

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amy.capolupo@mso.umt.edu.



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InnovateUM 2017 to Explore Design Thinking

April 21, 2017

MISSOULA – Innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs will gather at the University of Montana on Wednesday, April 26, for innovateUM, an annual conference organized by the UM Office of Research and Creative Scholarship and the Broader Impacts Group. This year's innovateUM explores design thinking – a process for solving problems and creating opportunities.

Elysa Fenenbock of Google, IDEO and Stanford d.school and Steve Holmes, vice president of product integration and engineering for Intel's New Devices Group, will lead keynote sessions at this fully booked event in UM's Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building. The day's lineup also includes breakout sessions on locally applied design thinking, hands-on workshops and a design showcase.

"InnovateUM creates a lively environment where local and national thought leaders can exchange ideas and seed opportunities for growth and innovation," said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. "We envision innovateUM as an opportunity to spark conversations and make connections that will enrich UM research and creative scholarship and power entrepreneurship and growth in our state."

"We're excited to bring people together from Missoula and from across Montana and the nation to explore design thinking, a process that all disciplines and economic sectors can use to tackle real-world problems," said Holly Truitt, director of the UM Broader Impacts Group and spectrUM Discovery Area. "The day will be a dynamic celebration of innovation and change-making, with everything from world-class keynotes to a hands-on workshop in designing a joyful, high-impact life to a high-tech fashion show featuring pieces created at Intel's New Devices Group and by innovateUM attendees. We aim to have fun and to wow while building collaborations and generating potentially transformative new ideas."

Although innovateUM is fully booked with over 100 local, state and national participants, additional spaces are available for "Becoming Innovation-Forward," an interactive session from 1:15 to 3 p.m. in Room 015 of the Gilkey Building. UM School of Art Director Brad Allen, School of Art Professor Elizabeth Dove and Blackstone LaunchPad Director Paul Gladen will facilitate the workshop along with special guest Gordon Jones, founding dean of the Boise State University College of Innovation and Design and formerly of the Harvard Innovation Lab. Email Sara Bunton at sara.bunton@umontana.edu to register for this session.

To learn more about innovateUM and see the full agenda, visit <http://www.umt.edu/big/innovateUM> or join the innovateUM Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/278642369241943/>.

###

Contact: Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship, 406-243-6670, scott.whittenburg@umontana.edu; Holly Truitt, director, UM Broader Impacts Group and spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4828, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.



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UM Student Earns Newman Civic Fellowship

April 21, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana political science major Isabel Langlois has been honored as a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow, a one-year fellowship for community-engaged college students who attend Campus Compact institutions.

Campus Compact is a national network of more than 1,000 colleges and universities that advance the public purposes of higher education. The fellowship honors the late Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders and a tireless advocate for civic engagement in higher education.

Langlois, who is from **Rome, Georgia**, is one of 11 students from the state of Montana and one of 273 students nationally to be honored as a 2017 Newman Civic Fellow. Her cohort will be the first to participate in an exciting new approach to the fellowship, which emphasizes personal, professional and civic growth.

Through the fellowship, Campus Compact provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities, including a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The fellowship also provides students with access to exclusive scholarship and post-graduate

opportunities.

“Isabel takes an interdisciplinary approach to tackling issues of social justice, public health and the environment and seeks out the most inclusive and empowering approaches to public problem-solving,” UM President Sheila Stearns wrote in nominating Langlois for the honor. “Isabel has proven herself to be an incredibly effective force for positive change, both on campus and in the community.

“For the past year, she has been deeply involved with several campus and community initiatives addressing sustainable transportation, leveraging her connections with each organization to ensure all would collectively benefit,” Stearns continued. “Isabel’s commitment to collaborative problem-solving, bridge-building and sustainable solutions makes her an effective and innovative leader who motivates and inspires others.”

Langlois hopes to work in a federal agency such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she can apply an interdisciplinary, systems-based approach to environmental health issues on a local scale. She wants to facilitate discussion and planning in and between communities to create resilient environmental health plans for future environmental health concerns such as toxicology, drought and natural disasters.

In the spirit of Newman’s leadership, college presidents and chancellors are invited annually to nominate one community-committed student from their institution for the fellowship. These nominees are individuals who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country and abroad.

###

Contact: Kathy Peters, Montana Campus Compact, 406-243-5135, peters@mtcompact.org.



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UM Honors Student Association Invites Public to Discussion on Religion in Politics

April 20, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Honors Student Association will host a Veritas Forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in the University Center Ballroom. The forum will feature a panel discussion between three distinguished speakers on the topic: “Can there be separation of church and state? A discussion on the role of religion in politics.”

Panelists include Steven Harris, director of advocacy for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Ruth Vanita, professor and director of UM’s Global Humanities and Religions program; and, Anthony Johnstone, UM associate professor of law. The discussion will be moderated by Soazig Le Bihan, UM philosophy associate professor.

Panelists will offer their academic and personal insight on the topic. The discussion will be followed by a Q-and-A session with the audience.

“HSA is excited to host an intellectual discussion on topics that are relevant to the community today,” said HSA President Sarah Gaulke. “We hope to broaden minds and inspire new perspectives.”

The Honors Student Association's purpose is to encourage fellowship among students, to promote a standard of excellence in all areas of student life, and to assist students in developing meaningful goals through academic, community and social activities. The Veritas Forum will hopefully create a thoughtful space for students, faculty and the community to come together and discuss all topics and beliefs. This event is sponsored by UM's Davidson Honors College, Associated Students of UM student group InterVarsity and Veritas, a nonprofit organization.

For more information email HSA at uofmhsa@gmail.com or call 253-315-1258.

Contact: Emily Hurst, UM student, 253-315-1258, uofmhsa@gmail.com.



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Biology, Environmental Studies Major Becomes UM's 41st Udall Scholar

April 20, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Rachel Dickson recently won a 2017 Udall Scholarship, which will provide up to \$7,000 to support her studies for the next academic year. Dickson is the University's 41st Udall Scholar, and UM continues to lead the nation in winning these prestigious awards.



UM junior Cassidy White also earned an Honorable Mention in this year's competition.

Udall Scholars are selected on the basis of commitment to careers in the environment or, for Native Americans, commitment to careers in tribal public policy or health care. Scholars also must show leadership potential and academic achievement.

Dickson, a junior from Missoula, is pursuing a double-major in environmental studies and biology with a concentration in organismal biology and ecology. She is the daughter of Mary and Dave Dickson of Missoula and graduated from Big Sky High School in 2013. Dickson, who also earned a Goldwater Scholarship in 2015, plans to earn a doctorate and teach and research in the field of ecology.

"In the future, I hope to combat climate-driven food insecurity through applied ecology," Dickson said. "The Goldwater Scholarship allowed me to spend eight months in Argentina studying impacts of an invasive bumblebee on a native plant-pollinator mutualism. The Udall funding will allow me to continue my research and outreach interests internationally."

White, a junior from **North Branch, Minnesota**, also double-majors in environmental studies and biology with a concentration in organismal biology and ecology, with minors in climate change studies and ecological restoration. She is the daughter of Dawn and John White and a 2014 graduate of North Branch Area High School. She plans to attain a master's degree in limnology, studying how climate change affects the stability and the movement of molecules through aquatic systems. She hopes to pursue a career informing environmental policy as a research scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency.



The 2017 Udall Scholars will assemble Aug. 8-13 in Tucson, Arizona, to meet one another and program alumni, learn more about the Udall legacy of public service, and interact with community leaders in environmental fields, tribal health care and governance.

For more information on the Udall Foundation and related programs, visit <http://www.udall.gov/>.

Contact: Laure Pengelly Drake, UM coordinator for Writing Center programs, external scholarships and advising, 406-243-6140, laure.pengellydrake@umontana.edu.



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UM to Host Seventh Annual Montana Academic State Championship

April 20, 2017

MISSOULA – Thinking caps will get a workout when the University of Montana hosts the seventh annual Montana Academic State Championship on Monday and Tuesday, April 24-25, in the University Center.

Students from 10 Montana high schools will compete this year, arriving April 24 for a dinner and social, followed by a campus tour. Monday night's events will take place from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. on the third floor of the UC.

Davidson Honors College Dean Brock Tessman will welcome the students to campus on Monday evening, and the high-school students – some who have never visited Missoula – will have an opportunity to mingle over dinner and dessert with some of UM's finest faculty, staff and student advocates from various curriculum and programs across campus.

UM President Sheila Stearns will kick off the tournament Tuesday morning at 8:25 a.m. to wish the competitors luck.

The competition will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in UC Rooms 329-333. Sponsored by

UM and Neely Electric, the championship is a round-robin quiz tournament. To qualify, teams must place in regional tournaments.

Questions will cover high school subjects, as well as pop culture and recent news. Each school will square off against one another during the morning preliminary rounds, and schools with the best records will advance to the championship rounds in the afternoon.

This year's participating high schools are **Frenchtown, Missoula Sentinel, Columbia Falls, Lewistown, Cut Bank, Broadwater (Townsend), Belgrade, Manhattan, Billings Senior and Billings Skyview.**

For more information call Johnston at 406-830-8015 or email mandmj70@gmail.com.

Contact: Merle Johnston, event coordinator, 406-830-8015, mandmj70@gmail.com.



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UM to Screen Documentary About Eroding Alaskan Village

April 20, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host a free public screening of the film “We Are All Related Here” at 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 1, in Room 105 of the Payne Family Native American Center.

Film director Brian McDermott will attend the screening and participate in a Q-and-A session after the 50-minute film concludes.

“We Are All Related Here” tells the story of the Yup’ik people of Newtok, Alaska, whose village is being destroyed by flooding and erosion caused by global warming. Newtok sits on frozen permafrost, which is rapidly melting. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that the largest and most important buildings in the village will be destroyed by rising waters in as little as two years. The film showcases the devastation taking place and the challenges Newtok’s 400 residents face as they attempt to relocated to a new site nine miles to the south.

“We Are All Related Here” has screened at film festivals in Alaska, Washington and Colorado.

For more information call UM Professor Neyooxet Greymorning at 406-243-6381 or email

neyooxet.greymorning@umontana.edu.

Contact: Neyooxet Greymorning, UM anthropology and Native American studies professor, 406-243-6381,
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UM Lecture to Discuss Truth, 'Alternative Facts'

April 19, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Humanities and Sciences, in partnership with UM's new Humanities Institute, will host "What is Truth? Evidence, Persuasion and 'Alternative Facts'" on Thursday, April 27.

As the college's annual Dialogue in Humanities and Sciences, the panel discussion will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Room 105 of the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building. The event is free and open to the public, and a light reception will follow.

This year's discussion examines the complexities of dealing with and assessing the meaning of truth from a variety of angles – scientific, social and human. Investigating everything from the significance of evidence to the emergence of "alternative facts," this year's UM faculty panel features communication studies Professor Betsy Wackernagel Bach, biology Professor Doug Emlen and UM alumnus and H&S advisory board member Jim Murray, who also serves as a trial lawyer for Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C.

Returning to the dialogue will be UM alumnus and author Jeremy N. Smith, who will moderate the panel's discussion.

"This event is always provocative and entertaining," said H&S Dean Christopher Comer. "It is not to be missed."

The 2017 H&S Teaching Awards will be announced at the start of the event. For more information call Ian Withrow, the college's media and information coordinator, at 406-243-2683 or email ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.

###

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Drone Experts to Offer UAS Training Course at UM May 22-26

April 19, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Autonomous Aerial Systems Office and Sands Unmanned Aviation Training of **Kalispell** will team up to offer a Basic Unmanned Aviation Systems Training Course next month.

Held on the UM campus May 22-26, the intensive training provides ground instruction, hands-on flight instruction with small quadcopters, preparation for FAA licensing, and an overview of GIS and sensor applications.

Taught by Justin Sands and Hovig Yaralian of SUAT and Kevin McManigal of UM's Department of Geography, the training aims to convert people with little to no UAS – or unmanned aviation system – experience into beginner pilots who understand and operate in a safe and productive manner.

“As part of our Montana Research and Economic Development Initiative funding, we are partnering with experienced UAS pilots and trainers to offer a set of courses through UM,” said Jaylene Naylor, assistant director of UM's AASO. “Justin and Hovig have an incredible amount of UAS and manned aircraft experience. AASO has already collaborated with them on several research projects, including weather monitoring.”

Sands is a private pilot with more than 350 manned flight hours and 1,500 hours of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) flight time. He has extensive experience in the design, building and flight testing of UAS systems, including the Sandstorm UAV that he uses in training MQ-9 Predator pilots for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Yaralian earned his Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering at Cal Poly Pomona and has worked with Sands as a pilot and flight test engineer. He also holds a private pilot license and has more than 500 hours of sUAS flight time. In addition, he has worked as a test pilot and integration engineer with NASA Dryden, JPL and Northrup Grumman.

McManigal is a lecturer in cartography and geographic information systems at UM and has helped AASO with UAS demonstrations and trainings for several UM departments, including journalism and geography.

SUAT plans to offer an advanced course at their runway-equipped Kalispell facility, which will allow students to fly larger drones and get more hands on experience with flight controllers. AASO also will coordinate with UM's Department of Computer Science and Tesla Foundation for future sUAS offerings focusing on software and programming, as well as GIS.

According a 2013 report by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the U.S. economic impact of UAS integration into the national airspace will grow to \$82 billion between 2015 and 2025, with total job creation numbering over 100,000 positions.

"There are a multitude of reasons someone may want to consider UAS training," Naylor said. "The skillset can lead to employment in precision agriculture, public safety and utilities inspections, to name a few fields."

Registration for the Basic UAS Training Course is open to the public, and participants can earn two college credits. The course is being offered through UM's Department of Physics and Astronomy and the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning. For more information or to register, call Naylor at 406-529-9174 or email jaylene.naylor@umontana.edu.

###

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UM College of Humanities and Sciences Distributes Teaching Awards

April 19, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana College of Humanities and Sciences is proud to announce the recipients of its 2017 Teaching Awards, recognizing excellent educators at various levels.

“A good teacher is one who effectively delivers the curriculum. A great teacher is one who motivates and inspires students,” said Jenny McNulty, the college’s associate dean. “This month, the College of Humanities and Sciences acknowledges its great teachers – those who are the epitome of teaching excellence. We recognize these exemplary educators for their outstanding contributions to the education of UM students.”

The Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award, the college’s longest-standing teaching award, recognizes junior faculty members for their excellence and dedication in the area of teaching. This year, the award is presented to political science Assistant Professor Sara Rinfret and mathematical sciences Assistant Professor Matt Roscoe.

Rinfret made an immediate impact after arriving at UM from Hartwick College in 2014. Teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, she educates students on political issues that range from state and local

government to public administration and environmental regulations. In doing so, she has become known on campus as the epitome of a teacher-scholar, possessing both an award-winning teaching portfolio and near-perfect student evaluations.

As one student said, "Dr. Rinfret has had, and continues to have, a profound impact on my development as a student, a member of the public workforce and as a person. I cannot begin to thank her for everything she has done for me, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition than Dr. Rinfret."

Rinfret also has guided UM's online Master of Public Administration program to one of national distinction, as it is now recognized among similar programs at the University of Notre Dame and Harvard University Extension School as being the best in the country.

After teaching at the high school level early in his career, Roscoe obtained a doctorate in mathematical sciences from UM in 2011. One year later, he accepted an assistant professor position at UM and now focuses his efforts on molding the next generation of math teachers at the K-12 level. He has worked closely with colleagues from other institutions to design and deliver unique opportunities for face-to-face, online and blended professional learning for Montana's K-12 mathematics teachers. His excellence in teaching has influenced not just UM students but teachers, programs and policies that go beyond the UM campus.

"I have had many wonderful professors at the University of Montana, but not one fits this award more appropriately than Professor Matt Roscoe," said one student in a nomination letter. "He is one of the easiest people to work with, and I have gleaned so much from him that continues to drive me as a MCPS educator today."

The two other faculty members receiving awards this spring are sociology Professor Kathy Kuipers and geography Lecturer Kevin McManigal.

Kuipers, the recipient of the William Reynolds Award for excellence in teaching across the curriculum, has a superior record of teaching courses at both the upper and lower levels of UM's sociology curriculum and a passion for maximizing the learning potential of all her students – from first-semester freshmen to graduate students nearing completion of a doctoral degree. She also is known for her dedication to mentoring students and has received specific recognition from Student Affairs for her mentorship of Native American students through the American Indian Student Services Advisory Board.

"Professor Kuipers has and continues to have a profound impact on me as a student, teacher and scholar," said a former student. "I am immensely grateful for having had the opportunities to learn from her and work with her so closely."

Founded by the college's External Advisory Board, the William Reynolds Award is named in honor of alumnus, advisory board member and longtime friend William Reynolds.

McManigal is the recipient of the David B. Friend Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes excellence by nontenure-track faculty members instructing at the introductory level and beyond.

As the coordinator of UM's geographic information science and technology certificate, McManigal is largely responsible for student success in navigating the program and transporting new knowledge and skills into the

professional environment. His dedication has revitalized and modernized the entire GIST program, doubling the enrollment to nearly 100 students a semester. Students often give rave reviews about McManigal's high-energy and inspiring approach with which he presents his classes.

As one colleague put it, "Students gravitate toward him to chat about climbing and hiking and traveling, but there is a lot of life advice being dispensed as well. He really wants everyone to find a passion and dive into ways to make the world a better place."

All 2017 teaching awards will be formally presented to the recipients at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at the college's annual Humanities and Sciences Dialogue event. This year's event, titled "What is Truth? Evidence, Persuasion and 'Alternative Facts,'" is free and open to the public and will be held in the Harold and Priscilla Gilkey Building Room 105.

For more information regarding the awards or the dialogue event, call UM College of Humanities and Sciences Media and Information Coordinator Ian Withrow at 406-243-2683 or email ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.

###

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Humanities Institute to Feature UM Scholars in New Lecture Series

April 18, 2017

MISSOULA – The Humanities Institute at the University of Montana will host a lecture by Assistant Professor Claire Arcenas on Wednesday, April 19, as a part of the institute's New Faculty Lecture Series.

Arcenas will present "Why Do Americans Love John Locke?" at 4 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall. This event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be provided.

As a historian of early America, Arcenas holds a particular interest in transatlantic intellectual, cultural and political exchange between the late-17th and mid-20th centuries. Her current research investigates the influence of 17th-century English philosopher John Locke on America from before the American Revolution through the civil rights movement of the 20th century.

"The American idea of freedom is based on the ideas of John Locke," said Humanities Institute director Nathaniel Levtow. "When the founders wrote the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, they knew they were putting his principles of political and religious freedom into action. Claire Arcenas is an expert on this towering figure over modern life and thought about the individual, society, education, politics, psychology, science and economics. We've

been looking forward all year to hosting her public talk this Wednesday.”

Arcenas also teaches and advises her students on a range of topics in early American history and historical methodology.

For more information, call Ian Withrow at 406-243-2683 or email ian.withrow@mso.umt.edu.

###

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Missoula's Congolese Refugee Families to Perform at UM April 30

April 18, 2017

MISSOULA – Six Congolese refugee families who have resettled in Missoula have prepared a play called “When One Becomes Many” to tell their story. The group will perform at the University of Montana University Center Ballroom from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

The story includes how refugees bond in refugee camps, sickness that takes away family members and friends, and eventual relocation to host countries. Members of the refugee families wrote the script and music, choreographed dances and will star in the play. Tickets cost \$10 for students and \$15 for community members. All proceeds will assist the Congolese families.

“I’m excited about the play because in the play I can speak many things ... and people can communicate through the play,” said Joel Makeci, one of the Congolese refugees and a father. “We have many people who don’t know the difficulty around the world, but we want to show them how many people are suffering from the war.”

The families have worked with students from UM’s Franke Global Leadership Initiative, as well as UM’s Student Involvement Network.

"I found it was one of the most meaningful and fun experiences of my college career," said Taylor Wyllie, a UM student and member of the Franke GLI capstone group, which has helped organize the play.

The students have worked with the families since December.

"The play is going to be epic," Wyllie said.

To learn more visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/BridgingtheGapMissoula/>. For more information call UM GLI student Kathleen Stone 801-712-1794.

###

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UM Biology Professor Stars in New Film About Nature's Wildest Weapons

April 17, 2017

MISSOULA – The research and discoveries of University of Montana biology Professor Doug Emlen are the focus of a new hourlong BBC documentary titled "Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers."

The program is part of BBC's longest-running wildlife series, "Natural World," and is slated to premiere at 9 p.m. Greenwich



Mean Time on Tuesday, April 18, on BBC2.

The program was inspired by Emlen's 2014 book "Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle." The UM researcher has spent 30 years investigating how weapon-bearing species developed extreme ways to gouge and gore one another using their natural weapons. The documentary explores how animal arms races may relate to their human equivalents – all the way up to nuclear warheads.

Featured subjects in the film include Darwin's and Rhinoceros beetles, which have pitchfork-like horns that measure one-third the length of their bodies; American elk, who deplete their skeletons to grow enormous antlers; and the U.S. Air Force's development of the long-range Minuteman III nuclear missile, Earth's most lethal weapon to date.

Sporting a Griz hat, Emlen takes viewers to various locations in Montana and Washington, including a ranch with elk overlooking Flathead Lake and a building crammed with 17,000 shed antlers called Jim's Horn House in **Three Forks**.

The film is directed by Peter Fison and narrated by actress Nina Sosanya.

"What makes Doug's work fascinating is that he asks us to look at the animal kingdom from a fresh perspective," Fison states. "We've all seen horned, tusked and antlered animals before, but I suspect few of us have considered what it is like to carry around an appendage weighing nearly as much as the rest of you everywhere you go, or why it's worth it.

"Doug's radical theory is that all weapons – animal or human – develop under the same conditions and are produced for the same reasons," Fison continues. "If Doug is right, the existence and function of nuclear warheads and elk antlers is the same and, potentially, just as vulnerable to cheats."

Emlen said the BBC and the PBS program "NOVA" collaborated to fund production, and that NOVA will air an American version of the documentary later this year.

"I know it's a challenge for many people in our area to get BBC2, but they should be able to watch it online after it premieres," Emlen said.

For more information visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08n9f6d>. People in Montana may be able to live stream the program at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, at <http://tvcatchup.com/watch/bbctwo>.

###

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UM Physical Therapy Associate Professor Named Fulbright Scholar

April 17, 2017

MISSOULA – James Laskin, an associate professor of physical therapy at the University of Montana, will spend the next academic year in Southeast Asia as an ASEAN Research Program Fulbright Scholar.

Laskin, who also is the director of the New Directions Wellness Center at UM's School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, will work to establish open communication and long-term cooperative relationships in Laos and Thailand while working collaboratively with international partners in education, political, cultural, economic and scientific fields.

Specifically, Laskin will be working on several collaborative projects with his colleagues at Mahidol University in Bangkok, including looking at the habitual physical activity level and patterns of school-age Thai children, evaluating the

effectiveness of Thai physicians addressing physical activity as a vital sign, and initiating a project to look at physical activity, quality of life and fall risk in elderly Thai and Lao.

In addition to scholarly activities, Laskin will mentor graduate students, providing a study abroad opportunity for UM students in the physical therapy program. He also will help other health professionals to become engaged in sport and recreation for people with physical disabilities.

"I am so honored be selected as a Fulbright Scholar; it is truly a highlight of my academic career," Laskin said. "Having my work – really my passion – being recognized with a Fulbright will no doubt open doors and provide me opportunities that will guide and enhance my work both here and abroad."



The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those in other countries. The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program is administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, a division of the Institute of International Education.

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 160 countries worldwide.

To learn more about the Fulbright Program, visit <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright>. To learn more about UM's physical therapy school, visit <https://health.umt.edu/physicaltherapy/>.

###

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Visiting Poet Kicks Off Busy Stretch for UM Irish Studies Program

April 17, 2017

MISSOULA – The Irish Studies Program at the University of Montana, along with the Friends of Irish Studies, will sponsor a visit to Montana by award-winning Irish poet Leanne O’Sullivan this month.

She will give a reading at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Missoula’s Fact and Fiction, located at 220 N. Higgins Ave., and again at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21, at Butte Brewing Company, located at 465 E. Galena St. in **Butte**.

O’Sullivan is a native of Beara Peninsula in West Cork, Ireland, which has a rich mining tradition. It has been the inspiration for much of her work, which includes three collections of poetry: “Waiting for My Clothes,” “Cailleach: The Hag of Beara,” and “The Mining Road.” Considering the long historical connection between Butte and Beara and the shared mining heritage, her poetry should reach the people of Montana in a special way.

O’Sullivan’s visit is the start of a busy summer scheduled for Irish Studies at UM. A list of events follows:

- UM will host its first hurling camps this summer, which are designed to teach the finer skills of the game. The first camp runs June 5-9, and the second is July 10-14. Visiting Fulbright UM teaching assistant Pa Sheehan is

the instructor, and he will be assisted by members of Montana's hurling community. The camps are ideal for all hurlers but will be of special benefit to those wishing to coach or train.

- The annual Friends of Irish Studies trip to Ireland is June 18-27. The tour takes visitors to places the Irish themselves like to go – the less-publicized places of historical and natural beauty so dear to the hearts of the Irish. Visitors will meet the ordinary people of Ireland and enjoy their celebrated wit, humor and generosity. Spots still are available for the tour.
- This year marks the 150th anniversary of the mysterious death of Thomas Francis Meagher, famed Irish rebel, Civil War general and acting governor of Montana Territory. To honor Meagher and his contributions to Ireland and America, a celebration of his life will take place in Helena on Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1. Events include a bus tour to Fort Benton where Meagher died, a simulated inquest, a selection of speakers and an evening of music and dance. This is the first of what is hoped will be an annual event. For more information visit <http://meagherfest.org/>.
- The annual weeklong Irish language immersion program will take place in Butte July 22-29. This is one of only two such courses taught in the United States, making it a rare opportunity to learn the language or to practice skills. There are two courses: one for complete beginners and another for students who have a solid command of the language and want the opportunity to speak and improve their fluency.

All events are sponsored by UM's Irish Studies Program and the Friends of Irish Studies. For more information call UM Irish Studies Program Director Traolach Ó Ríordáin at 406-243-6359, email traolach.oriordain@mso.umt.edu or visit <http://www.friendsofirishstudies.com>.

###

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Medieval Manuscripts Meet iPad App in Upcoming Lecture at UM

April 17, 2017

MISSOULA – Emma Cayley, Exeter University associate professor of French, will speak at the University of Montana on April 26 about working on a team to develop an iPad app that presents medieval manuscripts in a digital environment.

The talk “Rethinking Medieval Materiality: a Tale of Carpet, Screens and Parchment,” will take place from 4 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, in Liberal Arts Building Room 304. The lecture is sponsored by the UM Provost’s Visiting Scholar Program, the Department of English and the Institute for the Humanities. Organizers recommend that the campus community register in advance at <http://apps.umt.edu/fdoevents/>. The event is free and open to the public, and drop-ins are welcome.

Funded by the United Kingdom’s Research & Enterprise in Arts & Creative Technology and Higher Education Innovation Funding programs, the app allows students and readers to digitally navigate manuscripts in the Exeter collection and access historical and cultural annotations about the manuscripts.

“Professor Cayley’s talk will appeal to community members and scholars in a number of fields, including those

interested in digital humanities, and the interface between scholarship and emerging technologies,” said UM English Professor Ashby Kinch.

Cayley is a widely published scholar of late medieval French literature. Her studies focus on the circulation of manuscripts and the construction of debating communities around medieval courtly texts. She published “*Debate and Dialogue: Alain Chartier in his Cultural Context with Oxford*” in 2006, and has co-edited three other books on the great 15th century French author Alain Chartier and medieval manuscript culture more broadly. Her work on the iPad app involves scholars from Exeter, Stanford and Glasgow universities as well as a private partner, Antenna International.

Learn more about the app at <https://youtu.be/PPeHGtYSN3U>.

This lecture also is supported by UM's Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies program, the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Mansfield Library Archives and Special Collections. For more information email Kinch at ashby.kinch@umontana.edu.

###

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President's Lecturer to Discuss the 'Crisis in Higher Education'

April 14, 2017

MISSOULA – An award-winning essayist and critic will deliver the Lucile Speer Memorial Lecture to conclude the 2016-17 President's Lecture Series at the University of Montana.

William Deresiewicz will outline how he believes higher learning in education has lost its way in the lecture "The Crisis in Higher Education" delivered in collaboration with UM's College of Humanities and Sciences at 8 p.m. Monday, April 24, in the University Center Ballroom.

Deresiewicz also will lead the seminar "A Jane Austen Education" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. the same day in Gallagher Business Building Room 123, during which he will examine the work of Jane Austen as a way of showing how education must be understood once again in terms of intellectual and moral purposes. The lecture and seminar are free and open to the public.

Since receiving a doctorate in English literature from Columbia University in 1998, Deresiewicz has taught at Yale and Columbia universities, offering courses on British fiction, the Great Books, Indian fiction, and writing. He also has been a contributing writer at The Nation and a contributing editor at The American Scholar. His cultural

journalism has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic, Harper's, The New Republic, Slate, Bookforum, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The New Yorker online and The London Review of Books.

He is the author of "A Jane Austen Education: How Six Novels Taught Me about Love, Friendship and the Things that Really Matter" and the best-selling "Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life."

Deresiewicz wrote the 2015 article "The Neoliberal Arts: How College Sold Its Soul to the Market," which appeared in Harper's. The article continued a discussion vigorously begun the year before with his book about how higher learning in America had lost its way. He identified neoliberalism as the underlying reason for the plight of the university today. Neoliberalism in a university setting, the article proclaimed, tells students that they are valuable only in terms of their activity in the marketplace – their getting and spending.

"College is seldom about thinking and learning anymore," Deresiewicz wrote. "It is instead about meeting workforce needs. Hence, we are witnessing the stampede of students into vocational fields and their abandonment of the humanities, indeed of the idea of learning as an end in itself."

Deresiewicz has established himself as the leading diagnostician of this "crisis" in education.

The President's Lecture Series at UM consists of eight talks throughout the academic year on vital topics by distinguished guest speakers. For more information on the series, visit <http://umt.edu/president/events/lectures/> or call UM history Professor Richard Drake at 406-243-2981.

###

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Bitterroot College UM to Hold 2017 Water Symposium

April 14, 2017

MISSOULA – The public is invited to join the conversation about clean water during the second annual Bitterroot Water Symposium on Friday, April 28, at Bitterroot College of the University of Montana.

The event runs from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 105 of the Bitterroot College UM building, located at 103 S. Ninth St. in Hamilton.

The symposium will feature 18 guest speakers, beginning with a keynote address by Larry Swanson of UM's O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West and ending with a panel discussion open to questions. Hot lunch will be served to all who register by 5 p.m. Thursday, April 20. Event registration costs \$10.

Continuing themes include groundwater, soils and Bitterroot River characteristics, as well as water quality and growth in the Bitterroot Valley. Speakers and panelists will feature scientists; farmers; state, county and city government officials; water advocates; and others.

A schedule follows:

8:45-9 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Victoria Clark, director, Bitterroot College UM; Nan Christianson, symposium moderator, longtime Bitterroot community activist for environmental, social and economic opportunities

9-9:45 a.m.

Keynote: "Future Growth Scenarios for the Bitterroot Valley-2017"

Larry Swanson, director, UM O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West

9:45-10 a.m.

Break

10-11:20 a.m.

"Hamilton-Corvallis-Stevensville Aquifer Properties and Flow Scenarios, Aquifer Recharge and Storage"

Ginette Abdo, senior research hydrogeologist and program manager; Kirk Waren, senior research hydrogeologist; Todd Myse, research hydrogeologist; Dean Snyder, research hydrogeologist; Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology – Groundwater Investigation Program

11:20-12 p.m.

"Best Practices for Protection of Soil and Groundwater"

Jay Skovlin, Major Land Resource Area Soil survey leader, Natural Resource Conservation Service; Rod Daniel, registered sanitarian, Ravalli County Environmental Health

12-1 p.m.

Hot lunch, Salisbury steak, (vegetarian option), scalloped potatoes, dessert, choice of beverage. Served by Trapper Creek Job Corps. Watershed Education Network and the Environmental Science class will provide an interactive groundwater demonstration model to all interested parties.

1-2 p.m.

"Characteristics of Bitterroot River and its Ecology"

Marisa Sowles, geologist, water resource specialist, Geum Environmental Consulting; Larry Schock, civil engineering specialist, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation; Heather Barber, executive

director, Bitterroot Water Forum

2-2:40 p.m.

“Traditional and Specialty Agriculture: Best Practices for Water Conservation”

Dan Huls, Huls Dairy, Ravalli County Committee Right to Farm and Ranch; Brian McGuire, commercial vineyard owner/operator

2:40-2:55 p.m.

Break

2:55-4 p.m.

Panel discussion: “Water-wise Community”

Jeff Burrows, Ravalli County commissioner, Gene MimMack, former mayor of Stevensville; Karen Mahar, city attorney for Hamilton; Julie Foster, executive director, Ravalli County Economic Development Authority; Ran Pigman, principal, designer, project coordinator, Pigman Builders, Inc., Hamilton; Larry Schock, civil engineering specialist, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

4 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Nan Christianson, symposium moderator

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.umt.edu/bitterroot-college> or call 406-363-0100.

###

Contact: George Furniss, geosciences adjunct instructor, Bitterroot College, 406-241-1951, comogeo@gmail.com.

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Public Invited to Celebrate Native Culture At Annual Kyi-Yo Powwow

April 14, 2017

MISSOULA – Some of the best Native American dancers and drum groups in North America will gather at the University of Montana for the 49th annual Kyiyo Celebration on Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, at the UM Adams Center.

Hosted by the Kyiyo Native American Student Association, the event is one of the oldest student-run powwows in the country and allows the Native American community to share its culture with the UM campus, Missoula and beyond through traditional dance and song.

The theme this year is “Resilience Through Unity.” Student club members are proud to serve as a link between the Native American community and UM. Club members believe Native culture and history in Montana are important parts of the state’s identity and ones that should continue to be celebrated by future generations.

The first Grand Entry event will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21. Saturday Grand Entry times are noon and 7 p.m.

Howie Thompson will return as Master of Ceremonies along with longtime Honorary Master of Ceremonies Chief

Earl Old Person. Blackstone Singers from Sweetgrass, Saskatchewan, Canada, will be this year's host drum. Outgoing Royalty for 2017 Kyiyo are Wozek Chandler, Miss Kyiyo; Oteskwebeeksaki Shebala, Junior Miss Kyiyo; and Shandiin Shebala, Lil' Miss Kyiyo.

General admission session passes cost \$5 and weekend passes cost \$12. One session will be offered Friday, and two sessions will be offered Saturday. Seniors age 65 and older and children age 6 and younger are admitted free. Dancer registration costs \$5, and drum registration for 10 passes costs \$50. Tickets and passes can be purchased at the door, online at <http://www.griztix.com>, at all GrizTix locations or by calling 406-243-4051.

The Kyiyo Native American Student Association plays an integral role in promoting the cultural traditions and customs of all Native Americans. Through extracurricular activities offered throughout the year, Kyiyo engages UM employees and students in the cultural identities of Native Americans to support cultural diversity. Kyiyo is open to all Native American and non-native students, as well as any community members who wish to become members. The club is a chartered member of the Associated Students of UM.

Costs of hosting the powwow have risen substantially in recent years. To counteract these costs, the club actively fundraises year-round. Top fundraisers include Indian taco sales and Kyiyo's own athletic line of "Native Griz" apparel.

For more information on powwow events, visit <http://cas.umont.edu/kyiyo>, call Kyiyo Co-President Jacinda Morigeau at 406-333-1481 or visit the Kyiyo Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kyi-Yo-Pow-Wow/337255636055>.

###

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Salary Negotiation Workshop at UM, Used Book Sale to Promote Pay Equity

April 13, 2017

MISSOULA – Over the course of her working life, a woman will earn roughly \$1 million less than a man, according to the American Association of University Women.

The AAUW Missoula branch will host a workshop to empower employees to negotiate their salaries on Saturday, April 15, at the University of Montana. A used book sale also will support AAUW's mission Thursday through Sunday, April 20-23, at the Orchard Homes Country Life Club, located at 2735 S. Third St. W.

Workshop participants will learn how to identify the job title that matches their current skills and experience to determine their position's median salary range. They also will learn how to approach an employer to begin the salary re-negotiation process.

The workshop runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. It will be held in Social Science Building Room 254. Lunch will be served to attendees. Registration is required online at <http://aauw-mt.aauw.net>.

The workshop is hosted by AAUW Missoula; UM Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; the UM Women's

Center; the Office of the President; AAUW Montana; and the Women's Foundation of Montana.

AAUW Montana, with a grant from the Women's Foundation of Montana and additional funding from the presidents' offices of UM and Montana State University, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the MSU Women's Center, purchased two three-year site licenses to bring Start Smart Salary Negotiation workshops to the eight Montana University System campuses.

The project supports Gov. Steve Bullock's Equal Pay for Equal Work Task Force goals. AAUW Montana is the state-level organization of the American Association of University Women. With almost 300 members in 10 branches and another 100 national members-at-large in the state, the organization is committed to the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The annual AAUW/Phi Delta Kappa Used Book Sale at Orchard Homes Country Life Club will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 20; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 21-22; and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 23.

Proceeds provide Phi Delta Kappa scholarships for undergraduates and graduate students in UM's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences and small grants in support of the AAUW mission.

For more information call AAUW Missoula branch president G.G. Weix at 406-243-2337 or email gg.weix@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: G.G. Weix, president, American Association of University Women Missoula, 406-243-2337, gg.weix@mso.umt.edu.



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UM to Host 15th Annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference

April 13, 2017

MISSOULA – Faculty, students and researchers from around the world will gather to participate in the 15th annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference at the University of Montana on Wednesday through Friday, April 19-21.

The conference will feature several panels and presentations that address timely issues such as refugee resettlement in Montana, immigration in the Trump era, Russian foreign policy, and terrorism in the post-modern world.

Keynote presenters include John Limbert, retired professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the U.S. Naval Academy, former U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and former deputy assistant secretary of state responsible for Iranian affairs. Limbert, who also served in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, where he was held captive from 1979 to 1981 during the Iran hostage crisis, will present “Dealing with a Difficult Iran: United States and Iran During the Presidency of Donald Trump” from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 20.

Numerous scholars from UM departments, such as history, modern and classical languages, anthropology and the Defense Critical Language and Culture Program, also will participate.

All events will be held in the University Center Theater and are free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

Wednesday, April 19

- Noon-2:30 p.m. – Panel: **“Young Scholars Present their Research on the Middle East and Central Asia,”** Carson Blake, Chris Hanson, Chase Hougland, Ashley Jensen, Jared Miller, Curtis Schiwal and Kurt Secrest. Anthropology Professor Ardi Kia will serve as chair and discussant.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. – Panel: **“Magnanimous Stories in 3 Parts”**
“Hope and Despair: The Life of a Refugee in Limbo,” Fayezeah Haji Hassan, Duquesne University and Roseman Law Firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
“Courage, Imagination, Unbeatable Determination: I am a Refugee and a Dreamer,” Fatima Heravy, Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona.
“Perspectives of a Muslim-American Immigration Attorney in Montana,” Shahid Haque-Hausrath, Border Crossing Law Firm in Helena.
Michelle Risho, advocate for social change in Missoula and Bozeman, will serve as chair and discussant.
- 7-9 p.m. – Keynote Panel: **“Minority Groups, Religious Communities, and Immigration in the Trump Era,”** Shahid Haque-Hausrath, Border Crossing Law Firm in Helena, and Anthony Johnstone, professor, Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM. Robert Seidenschwarz, chairman of the Montana World Affairs Council, will serve as chair and discussant, and Clayton Christian, Montana commissioner of higher education, will provide opening remarks.

Thursday, April 20

- Noon-2 p.m. – Panel: **“My Montana Includes Muslims: Refugees & Immigrants in Big Sky Country,”** Samir Bitar, professor, UM Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, and Jameel Chaudry, UM campus architect.
- 3-5 p.m. – Panel: **“China, the Middle East and Central Asia,”** chaired by Professor Cao Zhen in UM's Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, with UM history and political science Professor Eric Schluessel serving as discussant. Faculty members from Shanghai International Studies University will present the following:
“Three Trends of Islamic Forces in Middle East Politics,” Professor Lui ZhongMin.
“Military Cooperation Between Oman and India,” Professor Zhao Jun.
“Sino-Middle East & Central Asia Relations: Historical Foundation and Realistic Motivation,” Professor Ding Jun.
“The Crisis of the Turkish Model and Turkey-European Union Relations in the Context of Economic Stagnation,” Professor Zou Zhiqiang.
- 7-9 p.m. – Keynote Presentation: **“Dealing with a Difficult Iran: United States and Iran During the Presidency of Donald Trump,”** presented by Limbert and chaired by Seidenschwarz, with Mehrdad Kia, UM history professor and director of the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, serving as discussant.

Friday, April 21

- 1-2:30 p.m. – Keynote Address: **“Russian Foreign Policy in the Age of Putin: The Case of Russia and Europe,”** Robert Greene, professor and chair of the UM Department of History. UM history Professor Michael Mayer will serve as chair and discussant.
- 2:30-4 p.m. – Panel: **“Terrorism in the Post Modern World,”** Michel Valentin, UM French professor, and Mark Metcalf, UM history undergraduate. Mehrdad Kia will serve as chair and discussant.

The conference is sponsored by the UM Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, Montana World Affairs Council, Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Department of History, the Defense Critical Language & Culture Program at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, and Shanghai International Studies University,

For more information on the Central and Southwest Asia Conference, call Mehrdad Kia at 406-243-2289 or email mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu.

Contact: Mehrdad Kia, director of UM's Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center, 406-396-1143, mehrdad.kia@mso.umt.edu.



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Clark Fork, Kootenai River Basin Council to Meet at UM

April 13, 2017

MISSOULA – Stakeholders from the Clark Fork and Kootenai river basins in western Montana will gather to form the Clark Fork Basin Council on April 19-20 in the University Center at the University of Montana.

The council will provide a regional coordinating entity to optimize resource use and conservation, provide regional guidance on water-related topics, and reduce duplication of efforts. Members of the public and UM students are invited to attend. There is no registration fee, but those interested in attending should RSVP at <http://mtwatersheds.org/app/clark-fork-basin-council/>. Visit the website for an event schedule.

The Clark Fork Basin Council is an outgrowth of decades of activities by various groups. Two groups chartered by the Montana Legislature – the Clark Fork Task Force and the Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee – developed a basin water plan and helped develop a state water plan. Based on recommendations in the plan itself, the citizens who worked on those efforts have now decided to form a basin council to work on implementation.

“In order for this new council to be a success, a wide variety of water users need to participate,” said Mike Sweet with the Montana Climate Office. “We need that participation so we can continue to support the healthy river basins

we all use and love here in western Montana.”

This first meeting of the Clark Fork Basin Council is supported by UM's Watershed Health Clinic under the Department of Environmental Studies, the Montana Climate Office under the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, the Bonneville Environmental Fund and stakeholders within the Clark Fork and Kootenai river basins.

Contact: Mike Sweet, UM research and information systems specialist, 406-243-5265, michael.sweet@umontana.edu; Vicki Watson, UM environmental studies professor, 406-243-5153, vicki.watson@umontana.edu.



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Mushroom Mania Brings Fungal Fun to UM April 19-20

April 13, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana will host “Iron Chef” contestant Jehangir Meta and UM alumnus and World Food Championship winner Lance Avery on April 19-20 for UM Dining’s Mushroom Mania, a two-day event of tasting and learning about a variety of mushrooms and dishes.

The event is hosted in collaboration with the Mushroom Council. The schedule is:

- **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19:** Tabling on the Oval where the campus community can sample mushroom-blended recipes, learn more about mushrooms and answer trivia questions to win Mushroom Mania T-shirts.
- **11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20:** Mushroom Mania hits the Food Zoo. Chef Meta will cook up blended burgers and Chef Avery will sauté several types of mushrooms for guests to try.
- **7 p.m. Thursday, April 20:** Mushroom Mania wraps up at the Iron Griz with an offering of a five small-plate items paired with beer and wine. Cost is \$40 per person.

Meta is an executive chef and owner of New York City restaurants Graffiti, Me and You, and Metaphor. In 2009, he

was a contestant on “Iron Chef America” and was a runner-up on the second season of “The Next Iron Chef.” He has been featured in several food magazines, as well as Vogue and The New Yorker. He also has appeared on television programs including “Martha!” and on the Food Network.

Avery graduated from UM in 1997 with a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies. In 2008 he began a quest that led to the invention of “bacon sausage” and in 2011 Avery founded the Chicago-based food company Big Fork Brands with his wife, Ann. Avery also won the “High Steaks Invitational” during the 2015 World Food Championships. Avery will be serving his portabella bacon sausage at the UM event.

Note to media: Chefs Avery and Meta will be available for media interviews from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19. Call Sam Belanger at 406-243-5089 for more information.

Contact: Sam Belanger, UM Dining director of marketing, 406-243-5089, samuel.belanger@mso.umt.edu.



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UM Gilkey Lecture to Feature Supermarket Chain CEO

April 12, 2017

MISSOULA – The 2017 installment of the Gilkey Executive Lecture Series at the University of Montana will feature Tres Lund, the chairman, president and CEO of Lund Food Holdings Inc., the parent company of Lunds & Byerlys supermarkets.

Lund, a UM alumnus, will speak at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, in Gallagher Business Building Room 106. His talk, “Growing and Developing a Multigenerational Family Business,” will explore the success of the Lunds & Byerlys grocery chain and building a family business with a focus on community.

The Gilkey Lecture is free and open to the public.

Founded in 1939, Lund Food Holdings owns and operates 26 Lunds & Byerlys stores within the Twin Cities of Minnesota. The retail grocery stores are supported by two company-owned food manufacturing facilities, as well as a produce distribution center.

Throughout its storied history, Lunds & Byerlys has taken an active role in strengthening the communities it serves

through strong job creation, deep customer relationships and charitable giving focused on enriching neighborhoods beyond employment opportunities and the business presence. The Russell T. Lund Scholarship Program, named in honor of the company's founder, was established in 1997 and has awarded scholarships and tuition reimbursement to deserving students and community members ever since.

Tres Lund has extended this community-centric value beyond the company to his own personal and professional pursuits, serving on numerous national and local boards, including the Food Marketing Institute and the Minnesota Grocers Association.

Lund began his longstanding career with the family company in 1978 as a part-time carry-out clerk. After venturing to Montana to attend UM's School of Business, he joined the family business full-time in 1985.

For three years, he trained and worked in a variety of roles throughout the company. In 1987, he was promoted to vice president of retail operations. Then in 1991, he was named president and chief executive officer of Lunds Inc., which at the time was composed of eight Lunds stores. Following the successful acquisition of the 11-store supermarket chain Byerly's Inc. in 1997, Lund was named president and CEO of Lund Food Holdings Inc.

UM's business school is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the most rigorous accrediting body for business degree programs. The school's world-class faculty includes renowned scholars recognized for pioneering contributions in their fields and expert instructors dedicated to the success of their students. Graduates of the business school continue a strong tradition of leadership, innovation and drive, consistently performing at the highest levels in both entrepreneurial ventures and leading corporations.

The school offers undergraduate programs in accounting, finance, international business, management, management information systems and marketing; graduate programs in management, accounting and business analytics; and certificate programs in entrepreneurship, accounting information systems, big data analytics, digital marketing, entertainment management and sustainable business strategy. Experiential learning opportunities, globally minded student organizations and statewide entrepreneurial competitions prepare students to address real-world business problems and deliver real value to their businesses, employers and communities.

More information is available online at <http://www.business.umt.edu>.

###

Contact: Tammy Yedinak, executive assistant to the dean, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-6195, tammy.yedinak@mso.umt.edu.

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UM History Doctoral Student Wins American Antiquarian Fellowship

April 12, 2017

MISSOULA – Pat O'Connor, a doctoral candidate in the University of Montana's history department, recently won an American Antiquarian Society Peterson Fellowship for his studies on the tobacco industry in the United States.

A native of western Massachusetts, O'Connor completed a bachelor's degree at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. He became UM's first George M. and Jane I. Dennison Doctoral Fellow in 2014.

O'Connor's AAS Fellowship includes a stipend of \$1,850 and a one-month residency at the



society. The stipend is derived from the income on an endowment provided by the late Hall J. Peterson and his wife, Kate B. Peterson. The fellowship is awarded to individuals engaged in scholarly research and writing – including doctoral dissertations – in any field of American history and culture through 1876.

In his project, O'Connor studies the relationship between government and the tobacco industry in the U.S. from the Civil War to the Great Depression. He examines the federal government's promotion of the industry and support of its dominance in the global market, as well as the regulations at state and local levels that establish age and gender restrictions for tobacco purchase and punishment for smoking and spitting publicly.

His research aims to answer the question: What does it tell us about the nature of American governance in this period that one could be fined, even arrested, for engaging in something his or her government has explicitly promoted?

"A fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society is really transformative, as AAS's vast and diverse holdings will enable me to augment the research for most elements of my project," O'Connor said. "AAS has everything from very rare and fascinating analyses of the federal tobacco tax from the 1870s to important early trade newspapers like Cincinnati's Western Tobacco Journal."

O'Connor has relied on archival materials from the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and the libraries of North Carolina State University, Duke University, the New York Public Library and the National Archives.

O'Connor said he is most excited to finally see the AAS collection of Civil War-era anti-tobacco broadsides, pamphlets and periodicals.

The American Antiquarian Society was founded in 1812 by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas and is both a learned society and a major independent research library. Today, the AAS library houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music and graphic arts material printed through 1876, as well as manuscripts and a substantial collection of secondary texts, bibliographies,

digital resources and reference works. AAS received the 2013 National Humanities Medal by President Obama in a ceremony at the White House.

For more information, visit <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/>.

###

Contact: Pat O'Connor, UM history doctoral candidate, 406-243-2231, patrick.oconnor@umconnect.umt.edu.



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UM Students, Volunteers to Revegetate Rattlesnake Creek on Earth Day

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana ecosystem science and restoration students and Trout Unlimited's Clark Fork River project managers invite the public to volunteer with them on Earth Day. Volunteers will help revegetate the area surrounding two newly installed fish screens on Rattlesnake Creek beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 22. Community members of all ages are welcome.

Students and volunteers will plant native riparian plants and install exclosure fencing to deter grazing mammals. Fish screens prevent migratory trout from being captured in irrigation ditches as they move between the Clark Fork River and their spawning grounds.

"This is a great opportunity to restore natural communities on disturbed land and give back to the natural areas we appreciate and rely on around us," said UM student Colton Kyro, one of the project organizers. A tour of the irrigation infrastructure and nearby side channel trout-spawning habitat will precede the planting activity.

During replanting efforts, Paul Parson and Rob Roberts, project managers at Trout Unlimited, will discuss how fish passage barriers, entrainment, habitat degradation, humans and climate change vulnerability cause declines in

native trout populations. Parson and Roberts also will show how to identify impaired water bodies and share steps that can be taken to return them to a state that mimics a natural, free-flowing waterway.

Revegetation of this area will protect the stream bank, promote native plant growth, add shade to Rattlesnake Creek, create riparian habitat and protect the fish screens from damage.

Volunteers will meet at 9 a.m. at Tom Green Memorial Park at the end of Wylie Street. Organizers recommend participants bring a water bottle and weather-appropriate outdoor clothing, including work gloves and boots, as well as any necessary snacks. A barbecue lunch and volunteer celebration will follow.

To participate, volunteers should RSVP by calling or texting Kyro at 206-601-8066 or emailing colton.kyro@umontana.edu no later than Thursday, April 20.

###

Contact: Colton Kyro, UM Ecosystem Science and Restoration Capstone student, 206-601-8066, colton.kyro@umontana.edu; Ben Colman, UM Ecosystem Science and Restoration Capstone professor, 406-243-6315, ben.colman@umontana.edu.



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SpectrUM's 'Water' Exhibit to visit Browning April 20

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – “Water,” the University of Montana spectrUM Discovery Area’s newest traveling exhibition, will visit **Browning** on Thursday, April 20.

During the school day, students from Browning will participate in guided field trips to the “Water” exhibition. Families and friends also are invited to attend a free Family Science Night from 4 to 6 p.m. at Browning Middle School.

Created with researchers from the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, “Water” features interactive exhibits and hands-on activities exploring ecosystems science. Highlights of the exhibition include a virtual watershed sandbox, a groundwater model and spectrUM’s popular erosion table. The exhibition is funded by the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, the Montana National Science Foundation EPSCoR Program and the Clark Fork Coalition. This tour stop is powered by Browning Public Schools.

The spectrUM Discovery Area’s mobile science program travels statewide with hands-on science exhibits and activities guided by museum educators. SpectrUM Director Holly Truitt said the goal of spectrUM’s mobile outreach is “to inspire Montana’s next generation about STEM and higher education and to help power a vibrant, homegrown

workforce in our state.”

Committed to inspiring a culture of learning and discovery for all, UM's spectrUM Discovery Area serves more than 55,000 Montanans annually through in-museum and mobile programs. Since 2006, spectrUM has traveled exhibits and educators to 73 schools and four public libraries in 31 Montana counties, including all seven American Indian reservations in Montana. Thirty percent of people spectrUM serves are Native American and over 75 percent live in rural communities.

Additional spectrUM sponsors include the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Jane S. Heman Foundation, NASA, the Martin Family Foundation, the Montana Space Grant Consortium, the Simons Foundation, GSK-Science in the Summer and the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation.

For more information, call Truitt at 406-243-4872 or visit <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu>.

###

Contact: Holly Truitt, director, spectrUM Discovery Area, 406-243-4872, holly.truitt@umontana.edu.



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UM Journalism Project Explores Widespread Effects of Meth in Montana

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – From families struggling with addiction to the overworked child protection services, Montana’s social, judicial and law enforcement systems are stretched thin trying to cope with the influx of cases caused by methamphetamine use in Montana.

A new multimedia reporting effort from the University of Montana School of Journalism aims to tell the wide-ranging story of meth abuse and its effects on society in a major new reporting project launched April 10.

The project, The Meth Effect, will unfold over the coming weeks in a series of new stories and reports on the production and distribution of meth, its impact on families and addicts and its effects on the government. The reports will mix audio reporting with photography, interactive graphics and written stories in a website, <http://www.metheffect.com>.

The project also will play out across social media, with reporting appearing on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/mtmethetheffect/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/mtmethetheffect>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/mtmethetheffect/>).

The reporting is the result of two advanced classes – one in audio reporting and another in online journalism – taught by Jule Gardner Banville and Lee Banville, two journalism associate professors. Some 20 students are reporting as part of project.

“There has been a lot of reporting on individual crimes or overburdened government agencies, but we wanted to try and capture the full breadth of ways the influx of meth into Montana has affected people and places,” said Lee Banville.

While focusing on the news surrounding meth, the project also serves as an experiment in ways to create more effective social media campaigns and digital presentations of audio stories.

“As popular as podcasts are, digital sharing of audio content is still a major hurdle for producers,” Jule Banville said. “The Meth Effect allows our students to, yes, produce the stories, but to also think smarter and better about their audiences.”

As this project rolls out over the coming weeks, national and regional news organizations may run versions of the stories, offering people throughout the state and around the country a better understanding of the challenges rural states face in dealing with drug addiction.

The Meth Effect is one of several projects coming this spring from the UM School of Journalism. Native News, the special reporting project focused on news from the state’s Native American population, will have a special focus on the Indian Health Service this May and a documentary on prescription drug abuse also is slated to run on MontanaPBS later in the spring.

###

Contact: Lee Banville, UM journalism associate professor, 406-243-2577, lee.banville@umontana.edu.



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UM Students to Display Art during Senior Thesis Exhibition

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Art will present the 2017 Bachelor of Fine Arts Senior Thesis Exhibition this April and May.

The exhibition will be held April 20-May 12 in the Gallery of Visual Arts of the Social Sciences Building, as well as April 17-May 12 in the University Center Gallery.

Both galleries will host opening receptions Thursday, April 20. The UC Gallery reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., and the Gallery of Visual Arts reception will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Both galleries also will host Commencement receptions from 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, May 12. All events are free and open to the public.

The annual B.F.A. Senior Thesis Exhibition showcases a diverse array of media and content. Twelve artists will exhibit in the Gallery of Visual Arts, and four will exhibit in the UC Gallery. Paintings, drawings, sculpture, installation art, photography, printmaking and ceramics will be featured.

All bachelor-degree candidates in the UM School of Art are required to participate in the exhibition. Students will

display work that reflects their chosen media.

Participating artists in the Gallery of Visual Arts are Drew Miles Davis, Katelynn DeTemple, Sara Friedrich, Robert Griffith, Morgan W. Hodge, Cameron Klise, Joshua R. Masias, Ashley Meyora, Bryce Aaron Peery, Katherine Powell, Leah Salcido-Nichol and Nicole Scoles.

Participating artist in the UC Gallery are Jasmine Beull, Claire D. Meyer-Wisneski, Daisy Sells and April Werle.

The Gallery of Visual Arts is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. The UC Gallery, located on the second floor of the UC, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information call the Gallery of Visual Arts at 406-243-2813 or email galleries.visarts@umontana.edu, or call the UC Gallery at 406-243-5564 or email ucgallery@mso.umt.edu. Additional information can be found online at <http://www.umt.edu/art/>.

###

Contact: Cathryn Mallory, UM Gallery of Visual Arts director, 406-243-2813, galleries.visarts@umontana.edu.



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UM Pharmacy Program Ranks No. 2 Nationally for Salary-Debt Ratio

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana pharmacy school ranks No. 2 nationally for “providing students the best bang for their buck,” according to a prominent lender and student loan refinancing company.

The SoFi company studied which pharmacy school graduates have the highest average salaries relative to their student debt. When this salary-debt ratio was calculated, the UM Skaggs School of Pharmacy landed at No. 2 on a list titled “Most Lucrative Pharmacy Programs.”

“The Skaggs School of Pharmacy is well known for the quality of its professional program and the relative affordability of the educational experience,” said Howard Beall, UM associate dean for pharmacy. “As the rankings clearly show, UM’s pharmacy graduates are well compensated upon

graduation and leave with little debt compared to almost all other schools and colleges of pharmacy.”

Beall said there are now 140 pharmacy programs across the U.S. He said the schools on the list offer the best value for student investment, with the highest average salary – \$115,070 in UM’s case – relative to average student debt.



“What the rankings don’t show – and this is equally important – is that 100 percent of our graduates are either employed as pharmacists upon graduation or successfully compete for advanced, postgraduate residency training,” he said.

UM graduates between 60 to 65 pharmacy students each year, with a cap of 65 students per class.

The only university with a better salary-debt ratio was North Dakota State University, whose graduates make 1.7 times what they have in student debt on average. At UM, pharmacy grads make 1.6 times their debt.

“Ample employment opportunities, plus a lower cost of living, can certainly help when it comes to paying down student loans,” SoFi’s Barbara Bellesi wrote. “NDSU might have earned the top ranking on our list because of the health care jobs that abound in the area: 81 percent of 53 counties in North Dakota are short on health professionals. The numbers from the University of Montana could tell a similar story: The need for health care workers in the state is growing, so the workforce must increase by 40 percent over the next decade to meet demand.”

Bellesi said pharmacy school is a big investment of both time and money, so to have a better shot at paying off student debt faster, it makes sense to apply to schools where employment opportunities abound and earning potential is high.

Visit <http://bit.ly/2ok7jWJ> for full rankings. For more information about the Skaggs School of Pharmacy, visit <http://health.umt.edu/pharmacy/>.

###

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Montana Public Radio to Broadcast Live at Montana Folk Festival

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – Montanans and folk fans around the world can tune into music, stories and more during the Montana Folk Festival's 10th anniversary July 7-9 in Butte.

Montana Public Radio will partner with Mainstreet Uptown Butte to broadcast live from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, July 7, and from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 8, during the festival.

The broadcasts will feature live music from the Festival's "Original Stage," as well as interviews with artists and stories capturing the feel of the festival, the audience and the Mining City.

"We're happy MTPR can share this great event and all the great music with listeners across western and central Montana and streaming online around the world," said George Everett, executive director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the folk festival. The National Folk Festival ran for three years before changing into the Montana Folk Festival, first hosted in Butte seven years ago. MTPR aired events live in 2008 and

2009.

Program director Michael Marsolek is one of the many MTPR radio personalities who will go on the air from Butte.

“We’re proud that we are able to return to festival for the 10th anniversary,” Marsolek said. “We believe delivering diverse folk, jazz and world music to our audience is a part of our mission.”

MTPR will announce later this spring the acts that will appear on the “Original Stage.” Nearly 140,000 people attended the festival over the three days last summer, and more than 150,000 are expected to attend its return in Butte.

MTPR also will make the broadcasts available to other public radio stations. A list of stations follows:

- 89.1 Missoula (KUFM)
- 91.5 Missoula, city (K218AI)
- 91.9 Hamilton (KUFN)
- 89.5 Polson (KPJH)
- 90.1 Kalispell, Whitefish, North Valley (KUKL)
- 90.5 Libby (KUFL)
- 91.7 Kalispell, city (K219BN)
- 101.3 Swan Lake (K267BJ)
- 91.3 Butte (KAPC)
- 91.7 Helena (KUHM)
- 91.7 Dillon (K219DN)
- 89.9 Great Falls (KGPR)

Montana Public Radio is a service of the University of Montana. Learn more at <http://mtpr.org>. For more information on the Montana Folk Festival, visit <http://www.montanafolkfestival.com>.

###

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BBER Survey Finds Montana Manufacturers Generally Optimistic About 2017

April 11, 2017

MISSOULA – A University of Montana survey recently found state manufacturers have a positive outlook for 2017.

The survey was conducted in late 2016 in conjunction with UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research and Montana State University's Montana Manufacturing Extension Center. Of 250 establishments contacted for the survey, 172 – or 69 percent – responded.

Most respondents said 2017 would be better than 2016, expressing optimism for all economic indicators and among the manufacturing categories. The least optimistic firms were food and beverage manufacturers.

Survey respondents reported that the two most significant challenges facing manufacturers in 2016 were health insurance costs (73 percent) and the availability of qualified workers (66 percent).

"Manufacturing is a diverse industry. This makes forecasting difficult," said Paul Polzin, BBER emeritus director. "We used a survey of Montana manufacturers to gauge their opinion of last year, and also what they think will happen to their plants in the future. Generally, Montana manufacturers have a positive outlook for 2017."

"This report validates what we have suspected. Montana's manufacturing industries are growing and they are very optimistic about the future," said Paddy Fleming, director of the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center at MSU. "Growth in Montana's manufacturing industries will lead the state to more high-paying jobs, a more diversified economy and an economy that is much less recession prone."

The Montana Manufacturing Information System, which resides at UM BBER, was created to improve Montana manufacturers' knowledge of other manufacturers in the state with whom they may engage in profitable business arrangements. It aims to provide detailed and up-to-date information about manufacturers in Montana, increase exposure of manufacturers' products and capabilities, and improve decision-making by collecting and reporting accurate information about manufacturing in the state.

For more than 20 years MSU's Montana Manufacturing Extension Center has helped manufacturers grow, innovate and increase profitability. For more information about the center, visit <http://www.montana.edu/mmec/>.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of UM's School of Business Administration. It informs Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research. For more information about BBER, visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu/> or call 406-243-5113.

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Montana Public Radio Concludes 2017 Spring Pledge Week

April 10, 2017

MISSOULA – Montana Public Radio ended its annual spring fundraiser with more than \$600,000 in listener pledges. Live music, listener challenges, hundreds of phone volunteers and a special 25th anniversary broadcast of the MTPR program “Musician’s Spotlight” highlighted the week.

At midnight, the tally reached \$604,824, concluding the nine-day event that raised nearly 92 percent of the \$660,000 goal. There were a total of 4,364 listener pledges during the on-air fundraiser, which ran from April 1 to April 9.

“While we’re disappointed we didn’t reach our ultimate goal, we’re so thankful to all of our listeners for their confidence in our service,” said Ray Ekness, director of the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center. “We expect the number to grow slightly as the mail continues to come in over the next week or so.”

The drive concluded April 9 with the popular “Pet Wars,” where this year dogs outnumbered cats 1,027 to 950. The pet competition also included many pledges for chickens, horses, goats, turkeys and others.

“We’re very grateful to receive this incredible support,” said MTPR Development Director Linda Talbott. “We’re happy listeners appreciate our Montana news, the hand-picked music, the NPR programming and our uniquely MTPR pledge drive.”

“This week is our report card,” said Michael Marsolek, MTPR programming director. “It’s a two-way conversation with our audience and a community event across the state.”

MTPR’s hopes to raise nearly \$1.7 million – 72 percent of the total operating budget –from listeners, sponsors and events during its fundraising year.

Montana Public Radio is a public service of UM. Learn more at <http://mtpr.org>.

###

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UM Panel to Discuss ‘Why the Bureaucracy Matters’

April 10, 2017

MISSOULA – In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University of Montana’s Master of Public Administration program, a panel will present “Why the Bureaucracy Matters.”

The discussion is at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 20, in Liberal Arts Room 103AB. It will feature UM Professors Jeffrey Greene, Andrea Vernon, Anthony Johnstone, Trisha Miller, Provost Beverly Edmond, Missoula Mayor John Engen and Montana Board of Regents member Fran Albrecht. The panel will be moderated by Assistant Professor Sara Rinfret.

The event is free and open to the public. It’s sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha and UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law, and food and refreshments will be served.

###

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Easter Eggstravaganza Hops to New Location

April 10, 2017

MISSOULA – Missoula’s 17th annual Easter Eggstravaganza will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at Loyola Sacred Heart’s Rollin Field.

Formerly held at the University of Montana, the community event will continue in the new location with major support from Garden of Read’n and Loyola Sacred Heart High School. The egg hunt is free and open to the public.

Loyola’s football field will be transformed into a sea of colorful eggs and mouthwatering treats. Loyola Sacred Heart High School students and St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School students will help stuff Easter eggs as part of their commitment to community service.

“When the Garden of Read’n presented the opportunity to be involved in this event, we were very excited,” said Jeremy Beck, president of Missoula Catholic Schools. “Not only will the event take place on Rollin Field, but our students will be involved behind the scenes preparing for the event and volunteering at the event when the egg hunters arrive.”

Garden of Read'n will donate 30,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes. Children ages 9 and under are invited to bring their baskets and search for the thousands of eggs during the hunt.

There still will be separate age-group sections for 0-2, 3, 4-5, 6-7 and 8-9. The Easter Bunny and other well-known mascots will be on hand for the fun.

The egg hunt previously was organized by University Relations at UM. Campus officials made the decision to discontinue hosting the annual Easter Eggstravaganza on campus to help refocus efforts on college-student marketing, recruitment and retention. For more information read <http://bit.ly/2mZD8Uu>.

###

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UM Students to Host Event to Combat Sex Trafficking

April 07, 2017

MISSOULA – Students from the Franke Global Leadership Initiative at the University of Montana will hold “Hidden Voices Speak Out – Combatting Global Sex Trafficking” from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 20, on the 11th floor of Aber Hall.

Six seniors in the GLI program became alarmed by the prevalence of sex trafficking crimes in Montana and globally and decided to dig deeper into the causes of sex trafficking and its most vulnerable victims for their senior capstone event.

According to the Montana Department of Justice, nearly 300,000 children are trafficked for sex annually in the United States alone and the industry brings in \$32 billion per year globally. The number of cases has risen significantly in Montana from 2015 to 2016.

At the event, attendees can walk through five different rooms that represent different countries and locations and listen as actors present the stories of real survivors across the globe.

GLI is a four-year, 12-credit certificate program that combines academic learning with practical experiences. Students across disciplines receive access to world-class leaders and harness their diversity to tackle real-world problems, both locally and internationally, with fresh ideas.

For more information visit <http://www.umt.edu/gli/>.

###

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UM Student Lands Prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

April 06, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana student Jed Syrenne recently won a Goldwater Scholarship, the top national award for undergraduate research in science, math and engineering, for the 2017-2018 academic year. Syrenne is UM's 17th Goldwater Scholar.

Soren Ormseth, also a UM student, won honorable mention in the Goldwater competition, UM's fifth since 2007.

Syrenne, a junior from Missoula, majors in neuroscience (cellular and molecular option) with a minor in mathematics. He is the son of Mary and Yvan Syrenne of **Florence** and a 2014 graduate of Missoula's Hellgate High School.

He wants a career at the intersection of mathematics and



biomedical research. Syrenne plans to complete a doctorate in neuroscience and then teach and research bioinformatics, focusing on signal transduction in neuronal cell lineages.

“Jed’s sparkling curiosity and early, joyful embrace of important research helped him to win this prestigious award,” said Laure Pengelly Drake, UM’s coordinator for Writing Center programs, external scholarships and advising. “He also benefited from the serendipitous timing of UM’s new neuroscience program.”



Ormseth, a junior from **Great Falls**, majors in physics and mathematics with a minor in philosophy. He is the son of Teresa and Doug Ormseth of Great Falls and graduated in 2014 from Charles M. Russell High School. Ormseth plans to earn a doctorate in theoretical physics, teach and conduct research in quantum field theory.

“Soren’s dedication to learning and his range of intellectual abilities and interests will make him a wonderfully thoughtful, creative researcher, teacher and academic colleague,” Pengelly Drake said.

The Goldwater Trustees awarded 240 Scholars this year out of 1,286 applicants from 470 institutions. The scholarship, established by the federal government in 1986, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, science and engineering.

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Forest Thinning Project on Mount Sentinel to Begin in April

April 06, 2017

MISSOULA – Missoula Parks and Recreation will use a \$67,000 grant from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to thin a section of forest on Mount Sentinel. The project is in cooperation with the University of Montana, as the area to be thinned spans land owned by UM and the City of Missoula.

The project aims to improve the health of the forest on Mount Sentinel by thinning early growth Douglas fir saplings that are crowding the forest understory. The project site lies above the University's M Trail, and results of the work will be visible from the valley floor. Thinning work will begin in summer and continue over the next year.

"Since we have excluded fire from Missoula-area forests for the past century, the forests have undergone significant changes," said UM Natural Areas Manager Marilyn Marler. "There are many more, and smaller, trees, which interfere with understory wildflower diversity and the regeneration of ponderosa pine trees. The thick Douglas fir stands also promote insect and mistletoe outbreaks."

"We'll use experienced contract foresters," said Morgan Valliant, Missoula open space manager. "There isn't any merchantable timber to be removed from the site. This is really intended to open up the forest for plant and animal

diversity as well as tree health.”

As part of the project, UM students Schuyler Moulton and Rebekah Tueller will host a volunteer day from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 15, on Mount Sentinel. Volunteers will thin Douglas fir saplings using loppers and handsaws, then use the trimmings to cover undesignated trails on Mount Sentinel. These unofficial trails kill native vegetation and cause erosion on the mountain.

Volunteers should meet at the M trailhead at 1 p.m. and be prepared to walk a mile uphill to the project site. Volunteers should bring work gloves and water. Hand tools are provided, and participants are welcome to bring their own saws and loppers. Organizers also are looking for volunteers who can supply their own chain saws and safety equipment. Snacks will be provided. This event is not recommended for children under 10, and dogs are not allowed. Volunteers are asked to RSVP by Thursday, April 13, by emailing Moulton at schuyler.moulton@umontana.edu or Tueller at rebekah.tueller@umontana.edu.

“We like to involve students and the public whenever possible,” said Marler. “The volunteer day is a good chance for people to learn more about the effects of fire suppression, and how thinning can be a powerful restoration tool.”

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Missoula Student Wins Prestigious State Department Language Award

April 06, 2017

MISSOULA – Ming Harris-Weidner, a junior at Missoula's Hellgate High School, recently was selected for a National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) award for intensive study of Chinese this summer.

Her application was supported by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the NSLI-Y program provides highly competitive, merit-based scholarships for high school students



and recent graduates to learn less-commonly taught languages in overseas immersion programs.

One of a few students selected nationally, Harris-Weidner was funded for a six-week Chinese language and culture program in Shanghai. The award includes intensive classroom study supplemented with community service and a home stay with a Chinese family. She was one of less than 16 percent of applicants chosen to participate in NSLI-Y as she seeks to obtain fluency in Chinese in combination with the study of environmental policy.

“China and the U.S. are obviously the keys to slowing climate change,” she said. “My hope is to combine proficiency in Chinese with expertise in environmental science and policy so I can contribute to a more constructive bilateral dialogue on this vital issue.”

Her experience builds on her participation in Mansfield Center Confucius Institute (CI) programs. The institute is the sole provider of Chinese language instruction in public schools in western Montana, working to help Montana students better compete in a global economy by developing Chinese language and culture skills. Harris-Weidner was enrolled in the institute’s Chinese classes at Hellgate High School and received an award to attend a CI language and culture program in China in 2015.

The U.S. Department of State promotes linguistic skills and cultural knowledge to enhance international dialogue and support American engagement abroad. NSLI-Y works to provide opportunities to American youth that will spark a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures.

In recent years, more than 100 Montana high school students have travelled to Asia on Mansfield Center programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Confucius Institute.

“Globalization of our communities is becoming an important priority,” said Deena Mansour, associate director of the Mansfield Center. “Historically, Montana youth have had relatively minimal exposure to international experiences compared with counterparts across the country. Our programs provide a rare opportunity for students who are traditionally underrepresented in international exchange. We’re thrilled that Ming was able to leverage her experience with the Mansfield Center to earn this prestigious award.”

NSLI-Y was launched in 2006 to promote critical language learning among American youth. NSLI-Y immerses participants in the cultural life of the host country, giving them formal and informal language practice. The program develops a cadre of Americans with advanced linguistic skills and related cultural understanding who are able to use their linguistic and cultural skills to advance international dialogue and compete effectively in the global economy.

The Mansfield Center promotes better understanding of Asia, U.S. relations with Asia, and ethics and public affairs in the spirit of longtime U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield, and his wife, Maureen. In addition to serving the UM community, the center offers a range of programs for K-12 students and professionals.

Mansour said programs such as NSLI-Y are currently slated for elimination in the FY2018 foreign affairs budget.

“While foreign assistance is less than 1 percent of the annual U.S. budget, the U.S. Department of State may take among the hardest hits,” she said. “The proposed budget eliminates all cultural and educational exchanges other than some Fulbright awards. Such funding has allowed us to support Ming and thousands of additional Montanans

to better engage in global commerce and education opportunities.”

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UM Professor Breaks New Ground on Counseling Survivors of Trauma, Sexual Assault

April 06, 2017

MISSOULA – Recent work by a University of Montana communication studies professor is drawing national attention for her approach to incorporating research in interpersonal communication with the delivery of mental health services to sexual assault survivors.

Communication studies Associate Professor Christina Yoshimura teaches courses in interpersonal communication, and her research focuses on how personal relationships intersect with larger systems, such as health care or the workplace. Yoshimura also volunteers as a clinical mental health counselor at UM's



Curry Health Center Counseling Services in order to bring research out of academia and into the daily lives of students at UM.

In 2013 UM received a Department of Justice grant to better address sexual assault on campus. Yoshimura joined a team at Counseling Services tasked with ensuring that sufficient services were available and appropriate for victims of sexual assault. Yoshimura specifically worked to incorporate communication studies principles and theories into her therapeutic work with survivors of sexual assault and other forms of interpersonal violence.

“We found that engaging verbal and nonverbal practices of strategic accommodation and divergence from clients were useful elements in building a trauma-informed approach to client care,” Yoshimura said. “We were surprised to find that many of the clients we saw throughout the two-year period of this grant did not make an appointment with a stated goal of working through interpersonal violence. Instead, they often presented with other concerns, such as anxiety. Through communication on our written intake form and the use of communication accommodation within sessions, we were able to convey receptivity to a client’s trauma experience and respect for their own pacing for bringing it into our sessions.”

Yoshimura and Kim Brown Campbell wrote a report on their work and their approach, which was published in the *Journal for College Student Psychotherapy* this past winter. Yoshimura also submitted the paper to the Western States Communication Association conference. The association awarded it as one of the top papers at the conference on the topic of health communication, and Yoshimura participated in several panels during the conference where she discussed the application of interpersonal communication to mental health.

“One of the exciting things about the discipline of communication studies is that our work spans boundaries across many contexts,” she said. “We are finding that our research into the messages and communication patterns in interpersonal relationships are important for the work that is done in so many spheres, like law enforcement or medical care.

“There is a real movement to partner with people in these spheres to build more effective practices with them,”

Yoshimura said. “The enthusiasm among colleagues from across the country for the partnership I’m currently engaging in with the mental health sphere is so encouraging.”

In a continued effort to blend academic research and practical interventions, Yoshimura recently established a new group at Counseling Services that aims to build the social interaction skills necessary for students to develop healthy relationships.

“In our culture there are so many things we give people specific teaching in, like how to calculate the circumference of a circle or how to drive a car,” she said. “Yet even though we know from countless research studies that good relationships are essential to our health and well-being, and even though we know many communication behaviors that are correlated with healthy relationships, it is rare to find any of that taught to people outside of select university classes.”

For example, people often struggle to start a conversation with someone new, or handle conflict effectively. Yoshimura’s practice-based counseling allows students to get an overview of productive relational communication skills and then practice them with one another.

“This incorporates cognitive understanding of the skill with the repeated physical experience of using the skill,” Yoshimura said. “Most people have room to improve their social functioning, and could experience less anxiety and more satisfying interpersonal interactions with even just a little practice.”

“I see communication as a powerful frame for understanding and improving our human experiences,” she said. “Participating on the Department of Justice grant was deeply meaningful to me as a way of seeing, serving and respecting sexual assault survivors on campus. This is of the utmost importance here at UM, and it’s also an issue of national importance. Providing an avenue for students to develop and refine their skills in building positive relationships is another way to serve the students on our campus.

“Using the social science research in interpersonal communication to work directly in the lives of our students is an immense privilege,” Yoshimura said, “and the obligation to do that well will continue to guide my choices here at the University and within our Missoula community.”

Contact: Christina Yoshimura, associate professor, UM Department of Communication Studies, christina.yoshimura@mso.umt.edu.

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University Villages Plans Herbicide Application

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – Work crews at University Villages, a University of Montana housing complex located on the South Campus, will apply herbicides to select areas this spring and summer. Residents and the public should watch for signs posted along the perimeter of treated areas.

Glyphosate – commonly known as Roundup – will be spot-sprayed near parking lots, curbs and sidewalks, as well as in some ornamental flowerbeds. Craighead, Sisson, Elliott, Toole and Lewis and Clark Villages are scheduled for treatment this spring. The herbicide Horsepower will be used for treatment of broadleaf weeds in some turf areas.

Workers will adhere to all procedural regulations and guidelines in applying the herbicide.

For more information call the University Villages office at 406-243-6030.

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Contact: UM University Villages office, 406-243-6030, .



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Montana AmeriCorps, VISTA Service Opportunities Available Now

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – Montana Campus Compact is seeking participants to serve as national service members in AmeriCorps and VISTA programs. Summer, part-time and yearlong positions are available.

AmeriCorps service members address critical community needs through direct service by working with students in grades K-12 to provide mentoring and tutoring to increase student success and college access. Applicants must be 17 years of age or older and have some college education or be a current college student.

The AmeriCorps VISTA members work behind the scenes with higher education institutions, nonprofits and government programs to address K-12 success, college access and success and services for veterans. Candidates must be at least 18 years old and have a bachelor's degree or comparable experience.

Learn more about the positions available in Montana at <http://www.mtcompact.org/service-opportunities/> .

AmeriCorps engages over 75,000 Americans each year to change lives and communities through meaningful service. AmeriCorps members gain professional development, join a national network of members and alumni, earn

money for education and develop an appreciation for citizenship. In 2015-16, Montana students used more than \$1.2 million in AmeriCorps Education Awards to pay for college. Thirteen Montana colleges and universities match the Education Award up to \$1,000 per year, and in 2016 those colleges and universities matched more than \$60,000 toward students' education.

MTCC advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Learn more at <http://www.mtcompact.org/>.

###

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Students to Compete in Statewide Business Startup Competition at UM

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – Montana has no shortage of aspiring entrepreneurs – including students. The annual John Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge, hosted by University of Montana's School of Business Administration and UM's Blackstone LaunchPad, received 29 applications from student teams across the state to compete for more than \$50,000 in prize money.

A panel of judges selected 16 teams to compete Thursday, April 13, at UM. The teams will pitch their business ideas to a panel of around 50 judges in hopes of receiving a portion of the prize money, which is generously contributed by businesses, organizations and individuals who are committed to the future of entrepreneurship in Montana.

In its 28th year, the competition encompasses ideas from a wide array of ventures. This year students will showcase ideas for tiny home communities, cricket farms for edible protein and more. Finalists represent multiple institutions (UM, Montana Tech, Montana State University and Carroll College) and pursue a range of majors, including business, psychology, journalism, chemistry and natural resource conservation. The 2017 competitors are:

Carroll College:

- **Pedenza** – Designs top-of-the-line, handmade, floating wine bottle holders from fine hardwoods.

Montana Tech:

- **Healthy Eats** – Inspired recipe generation tailored to you, whether cooking at home or out shopping.

UM:

- **Bonsai Communities** – Tiny Homes under the Big Sky: A sustainable, affordable housing solution for Missoula.
- **Clark Fork Charcuterie** – A retail and wholesale producer of locally cured and specialty meats, targeting customers seeking artisanally crafted products.
- **Crepe Cuisine** – A mobile food truck selling traditional French crepes with a local, Montanan twist to Missoulians looking for a unique and delicious food option.
- **FeatureMe, LLC** – For that impossible-to-shop-for friend or family member, FeatureMe offers the most unique and genuinely touching personalized gift: a story.
- **MatchMade** – A project workforce software as a service designed to help leaders build teams through a suitability algorithm based on team member background, skill, preference and project type.
- **Miriam's Inspired Skin Care** – Providing natural, local nutrition for skin.
- **Ryffit Inc.** – Ryffits allows musicians to create custom books of sheet music by popular artists which are then printed and mailed to their doorstep.
- **StrappedIn** – A social platform that connects local amateur athletes to local companies through sponsorships in exchange for marketing.
- **TOMIS** – A digital marketing assistant for tour operators.
- **Tran-sci-lator** – An online science communication platform with a fact-checking component and a simple education model that explains trending science in a clear, concise manner that doesn't require a Ph.D. to understand.

UM and MSU:

- **Darktwin Studios** – A game studio focused on decision-based storytelling.

MSU:

- **Cowboy Cricket Farms LLC** – The first edible insect farm in Montana, providing a better protein for a better future.
- **Farmented** – Dedicated to reducing waste in the form of grade “B” and excess vegetables on small, local farms by creating a new, innovative line of fermented goods for a health and Earth-conscious target market.
- **Sirberus** – A breaching device that saves seconds to save lives.

Paul Gladen, director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at UM and a member of the competition’s organizing team, said the competition has seen a growth in applicants.

“We are extremely excited to see a significant increase of statewide interest in this year’s competition,” Gladen said. “This reflects the growth of entrepreneurship in Montana and the increasing awareness by students that entrepreneurship is a viable career path.”

Les Craig, director of Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU, said the increased interest has broadened the business pitches.

“I couldn’t be more excited about the tremendous talent and diversity of teams selected as finalists,” Craig said. “This competition continues to get better every year. It serves as a significant motivator for students across the state to pursue their passions.”

Judges will select four finalists to compete for the top four prizes at the evening’s public event, including the \$15,000 first-place cash prize. The public event and reception begins at 4:30 p.m. in the University Center Theater. Notable previous competition winners include Chilton Skis, Five on Black and Big Sky Brewing Company.

###

Contact: Paul Gladen, UM Blackstone LaunchPad director and competition organizer, 406-396-3534, paul.gladen@mso.umt.edu.



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Where Does Montana Fit in the High Wage Jobs Puzzle?

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana economist Bryce Ward examines the state’s place in the new geography of jobs in the latest issue of the Montana Business Quarterly.

“All places want to offer high wage jobs, a modest cost of living and an amazing quality of life, but no place can offer all three,” said Ward, associate director of UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research. “In Montana, low earnings have been an issue, and while the cost of living in Montana is lower than the U.S. level, it is still high relative to income.

“Yet, in spite of these affordability challenges, Montanans still want to live in the state, which speaks to Montana’s quality of life,” Ward said.

Kids who grow up in Montana and go to college in Big Sky Country often feel they must leave the area to find opportunity, he said. Montana faces two problems that reinforce each other: Low wages limit the availability of college-educated workers, but to raise wages for this group, Montana needs to develop a more robust knowledge economy that requires a pool of skilled, creative workers.

“Montana needs to do two things,” Ward said. “It must attract or grow firms that can provide jobs, and it must also develop the resources that allow these firms to attract potential residents.”

The spring 2017 issue of the Montana Business Quarterly includes articles on Montana’s crowded national parks and the high-tech business sector in Montana. There also is an economic Q-and-A session with BBER experts. The magazine has provided accessible and reliable information about Montana’s business and economic climate since 1949.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of UM’s School of Business Administration. It informs Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research.

For more information or to subscribe to the Montana Business Quarterly, visit BBER at <http://www.bber.umt.edu/> or call 406-243-5113.

###

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UM Dance Program Shines at Regional Conference

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana Dance Program cemented its reputation as one of the best schools in the nation following an unprecedented showing at last week's American College Dance Association Northwest Regional Conference in Eugene, Oregon.

The UM Dance Program performed two pieces and was the only university to have both of its submissions selected for the event's Gala Concert.

The conference, which attracts more than 500 students, artists and educators from throughout the West, offers programs a chance to showcase original work and receive constructive feedback from nationally and internationally renowned adjudicators. UM's earned recognition while competing with



much larger institutions such as the University of Utah, University of Oregon, University of Colorado in Boulder and Brigham Young University.

Beginning in 2007, UM pieces have been annually selected for the regional conference's Gala Concert; however, it is a distinguishable and rare honor to have both submissions make the cut. The conference featured 44 works in four adjudicated concerts, and UM was the only school to secure two performance slots in the final Gala Concert in which nine additional schools were featured.

Describing the UM's choreography and performance, adjudicator and ballet master of New York Ballet Theatre Jim Sutton applauded the fierce "engagement of the performers" and their ability to fully commit to their craft.

Adjudicator Holly Johnston furthered her accolades of UM's Dance Program, noting that the students and faculty are "doing very strong, very extraordinary and incredibly important work that continues to push the art form forward."

The entire adjudicator panel noted UM's contributions to this conference "as truly exceptional," particularly for the size and location of the school.

The UM Dance Program's two pieces were performed by 12 students. "Peach & Pit," choreographed by sophomore Logan Prichard, features seven students performing a high-energy, dark and empowering commentary on what one might find simultaneously grotesque and beautiful. The adjudicators praised the students for their ability to "go eagerly and without shame into the belly of the work" and "disrupt our notions of normalcy."

UM's second piece, "Probable Fall," was choreographed by guest artist Rachael Lincoln. The Seattle choreographer visited campus during fall semester to set the piece on six students over one week of intensive rehearsals. With intricate partnering and high-tension catches and falls, the adjudicators again noted the UM students' commitment to the material.

"I appreciated the guts of the work, and congratulate the performers on their trust in the midst of work where there appeared to be real danger," said adjudicator Ananya Chatterjea, a choreographer, dancer and leading voice in contemporary Indian dance from the University of Minnesota.

Both works will be considered for one additional performance Aug. 24 at Jacob's Pillow Dance Center in Massachusetts for the center's Inside/Out Performance Series: American College Dance Association Highlights. A curator panel will consider the UM works to perform along additional national selections; the formal announcement of selected pieces will be made later this spring.

"The University of Montana dance students are committed to the practice of making meaningful, relevant, inspiring and empowering works of art," said UM Professor Nicole Bradley Browning, who is head of the UM Dance Program. "With each of their dances, our students bring promise for a hopeful future fueled by a thriving and dynamic dance culture. These students are making important work: They are asking significant questions and helping us to feel alive and with agency through their performances."

The UM Dance Program is one of the few programs in the Northwest offering bachelor of fine arts and bachelor of arts degrees specializing in choreography, performance and dance education. The program also offers two dance minors, as well as a diverse array of dance classes open to students of all abilities, backgrounds and levels of curiosity.

For more information on the conference visit <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1862442&>. For more information on UM's School of Theatre & Dance visit <http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/>.

Contact: Nicole Bradley Browning, UM dance professor, 406-243-4481, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu.



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UM Computer Science Professor Earns Three-Year NIH Grant

April 05, 2017

MISSOULA – University of Montana Assistant Professor Travis Wheeler, assistant chair of UM’s computer science department, recently was awarded a three-year National Institutes for Health R15 grant.

Wheeler will receive \$426,000 over three years for his project “Improved protein-DNA models for translated sequence search with profile Hidden Markov models.”

“I’ve been lucky to be joined by a terrific group of student researchers,” Wheeler said. “These funds will support two graduate students from that group, along with at least two undergraduates. We’re all excited to get to work developing new tools to help biologists do a better job of recognizing features in protein coding DNA sequences.”

Fast and sensitive sequence database searches are fundamental to modern molecular biology. Wheeler’s research will improve the accuracy of annotation of protein-coding content in sequenced genomes and metagenomic datasets.

“Modern molecular biology depends on the ability to computationally identify proteins and functional regions in those

proteins,” Wheeler said. “We will develop new models that account for features (frameshift mutations and splice sites) that cause current methods to fail.”

For more information call Wheeler at 406-243-6219 or email travis.wheeler@umontana.edu.

###

Contact: Travis Wheeler, assistant professor, UM Department of Computer Science, 406-243-6219, travis.wheeler@umontana.edu.



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UM Outdoor Program to Host Used Outdoor Gear Sale

April 03, 2017

MISSOULA – The Outdoor Gear Sale put on by the University of Montana’s Outdoor Program will take place from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in the University Center Atrium. Anyone in the Missoula community can buy or sell used outdoor equipment including bikes, boating equipment, climbing gear, camping gear, clothing and more.

Those interested in selling gear can drop off their items between 7 and 11 a.m. the day of the sale in the UC Atrium. Sellers can pick up gear and receive a cash payout for the sold items between 6 and 7:30 p.m. the same day. The UM Outdoor Program will collect 20 percent of the selling price and proceeds benefit the UM Outdoor Program for new programs and equipment.

The UM Outdoor Program also seeks volunteers to help with the event. Flexible shifts and roles are available throughout the day, and those that work at least three hours gain access to a special preview sale.

For more information call 406-243-5172 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/outdoor>. To volunteer call 406-243-5172 or email crecop@mso.umt.edu.

###

Contact: Andi Armstrong, , assistant director of operations and marketing, UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-2806, andrea.armstrong@mso.umt.edu .



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Light Up the Night at Griz Glow Fun Run on April 8

April 03, 2017

MISSOULA – Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to take part in the 2017 Griz Glow 5K fun run at 8:45 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at the University of Montana Golf Course, located at 515 South Ave. E.

Participants are encouraged to dress in whites and brights for the glow-in-the-dark-themed event. Prerace festivities begin when race check-in opens at 7:30 p.m. with free face-painting, a black-light photo booth, music and OULA. The Iron Griz restaurant will be serving beverages before the race and on-course entertainment will include local band The Ghost Peppers, as well as glow zones featuring fire-twirling and hooping compliments of the UM Circus Club.

Registration costs \$35 and participants receive glowsticks and LED bracelets and necklaces at check-in. Visit <http://www.umt.edu/grizglow> for more information and to register.

Proceeds from Griz Glow 5K provide scholarships for children attending UM's Campus Recreation Youth Camps, which are designed to foster children's sense of autonomy while exploring all forms of recreation. For more information about Campus Recreation Youth Camps, visit <http://www.umt.edu/youthcamps> or call 406-243-5295.

###

Contact: UM Campus Recreation, 406-243-5295, campusrec.youthcamps@mso.umt.edu.



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New York Times Writer to Deliver Annual Dean Stone Lecture

April 03, 2017

MISSOULA – The University of Montana School of Journalism will welcome New York Times staff writer and National Magazine Award-winner Nikole Hannah-Jones as the 60th annual Dean Stone lecturer.

Hannah-Jones' lecture, "The Problem We All Live With: The Legacy of School Segregation," will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, in the University Center Ballroom. Her presentation is free and open to the public.

Hannah-Jones' widely read articles on segregated housing and schools and her deeply personal reports on the black experience in America expose how racial inequality is maintained through official policy. They also offer a compelling case for greater equity.

She covers racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine and has spent years chronicling the way official policy has created and maintains segregation in housing and schools.

She also has written extensively on the history of racism and inequality, school resegregation and the disarray of hundreds of desegregation orders, and the decades-long failure of the federal government to enforce the landmark

1968 Fair Housing Act. Hannah-Jones is writing a book on school segregation titled "The Problem We All Live With," to be published on the One World imprint of Penguin/Random House.

Each spring the UM School of Journalism honors its founder, Dean Arthur Stone, and current journalism students with a guest lecturer followed by an awards banquet. Thanks to many generous endowments and contributions from donors, the school is able to offer its students over \$150,000 in scholarships and awards each year. The Dean Stone lecture is made possible by an endowment from the Hearst Foundation.

The UM School of Journalism launched in 1914 and has trained generations of journalists in the craft and ethics of their profession. The school is regularly ranked among the top 10 journalism schools in the United States.

###

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